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PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 10th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 25 June 1996, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. GERVAIS (Côte d'Ivoire)

later: Mr. MOUBARAK (Lebanon)
(Vice-President)

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTICS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTICS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES (E/1996/18, E/1996/57)

The PRESIDENT recalled that because of the threat that drugs posed to the world economic order and the internal stability of a number of States the Council had decided to devote its high-level segment to the question of international cooperation against illicit activities related to narcotic drugs. The vast sums diverted into illegal drug trafficking represented capital lost to society because it was not invested in the legitimate sectors of national economies. No social or economic sector remained immune from the effects of drug trafficking. Concerted action was needed to elaborate innovative and coherent strategies, particularly in such areas as money-laundering.

The legal arsenal against illicit trafficking included 14 international instruments and a coordinating body, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP); the latter was of invaluable assistance to developing countries, which did not have sufficient resources to fight illicit trafficking on their own. Therefore, UNDCP must be placed on a sound financial footing.

Countries could demonstrate their commitment to drug control by acceding to the 1988 United Nations Convention against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. In drug-producing regions, actions should not be limited to punishment of producers, but should include support for substitute activities. In addition, the industrialized countries could exercise better control over exports of precursor chemicals.

Africa, a region of limited resources where control of national borders was often lax, was becoming a major transit zone. It was not surprising, therefore, that drug consumption in the region was also on the rise. Support from the international community to strengthen drug control and educate youth was needed more than ever before.

The time had come to consider a joint approach by the international community. The Council should consider the proposal for a special session of the General Assembly as well as the review of the Medium-term Plan for the

period 1998-2001. Such meetings could provide an opportunity to strengthen the will of the international community to continue the fight against illicit drugs.

Mr. GIACOMELLI (Executive Director, United Nations International Drug Control Programme) said that, sadly, drugs had become a major cause of insecurity in the world. Fortunately, however, the international community had a number of legal instruments at its disposal that it could use to combat the problem, including the drug control conventions and the Global Programme of Action, as well as the means for their implementation through UNDCP, the coordination mechanism of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and the System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control. Since its creation, UNDCP had taken a balanced approach, whereby demand reduction and supply reduction were viewed as inseparable and mutually reinforcing elements. The strategy also emphasized the promotion of comprehensive national drug control plans that were integrated into each country's overall economic and social planning, the development and maintenance of international norms and standards for drug control and the mobilization of civil society for the prevention and reduction of drug abuse.

Because of its multisectoral nature, coherent action in drug control required the establishment, at the national level, of a coordinating mechanism at the highest level. Similarly, at the international level, UNDCP, through the mechanism of ACC, had been able to ensure the increased commitment of specialized agencies and the international financial institutions to provide a system-wide response. It must be recognized, however, that the gap between words and deeds was widening. The Council should therefore confirm the high priority assigned by States to international drug control, both at the national level and within the United Nations, express a firm commitment to carry out concerted multilateral action and identify a system of monitoring and control of performance acceptable to Member States. Such a system should contain precise objectives and deadlines with respect to the universal adherence to the international drug control treaties and their implementation, adoption of national drug control master plans, appropriate mechanisms for internal coordination with the necessary legal and political authority, allocation at the national level of resources proportionate to the dimensions of the problem and allocation of resources to UNDCP commensurate with its mandate.

Given that there were currently no major conflicts or ideological divides to paralyse concerted action, and that the international community was agreed regarding the necessity to address all aspects of the drug problem, it must translate that resolve into action No single country had the solution, and solidarity was not a question of generosity, but rather a matter of survival.

Mr. SCHROEDER (President, International Narcotics Control Board) said that the international drug control conventions of 1961, 1971 and 1988 set forth the minimum control levels and obligations of Governments. In order to be effective, they required universal adherence, proper implementation at the national and international levels, and a dynamic response to drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Each case of non-ratification created loopholes which could be used by those who stood to profit from illicit production and trafficking. Thus, he urged those Governments which had not yet ratified any of the instruments to do so. Recalling that in 1994 the Board had identified a number of provisions that it believed should be amended, he urged Governments to make full use of the simplified amendment procedure provided for that purpose.

Implementation of the Conventions was also far from perfect, and countries needed to strengthen their judicial systems in such areas as extradition, mutual legal assistance, and confiscation of assets and proceeds, if they wished to fight drugs effectively. Although some Western countries criticized others for overly severe punishment of drug-related offences, the Conventions intentionally defined penalties only in very general terms. Every Government was entitled to exercise stronger control measures than those provided in the Conventions if it believed them appropriate and necessary. It must be remembered that the ultimate aim of the Conventions was the well-being of society. The Board took its responsibilities to ensure an adequate supply of drugs for the treatment of pain and other legitimate medical purposes very seriously, but every effort must be made to prevent illicit trafficking and abuse.

Governments should keep in mind that experiments in the field of harm reduction currently taking place in several developed countries could be misused by those advocating the legalization of drugs. In an era of immediate communications networks, however, any activity within one country affected international drug control policy, and, in the view of the Board, legitimization of the non-medical use of drugs of abuse under the rubric of "harm minimization" could not be justified. It was also concerned by the use, misuse and abuse of

psychotropic substances, for example, stimulants, and hoped that the forthcoming conference on stimulants would result in a plan of action outlining effective countermeasures. The Board was also concerned by the aggressive marketing of some synthetic substances, and called upon pharmaceutical companies to show greater concern for the long-term health and well-being of society.

Since it was dependent on the United Nations regular budget and did not accept voluntary contributions from individual countries, the Board was facing a growing gap between increased responsibilities and a declining resources base. Its financial difficulties could prevent it from carrying out its mandated duties effectively.

Mr. GIORGIANNI (Observer for Italy), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the cornerstones of an effective strategy against illicit drugs continued to be the simultaneous fight against demand, production and supply, as well as treatment for drug addicts and effective law enforcement in the areas of drug trafficking, money-laundering and diversion of chemical precursors.

The economy was the new front in the battle against drug trafficking and the organized crime that that fostered, and defence of the economic system must be an integral part of any strategy. The fight against money-laundering was an integral part of the anti-drug policy, because it targeted the fundamental interests of drug trafficking and because money-laundering had distorting effects on economies. The fight against corruption was especially important because corruption undermined the credibility of institutions and hindered legislative initiatives against illicit drug use. Criminal organizations took advantage of political and economic weaknesses to create networks of complicity and corruption. Support for international cooperation in investigations, trials and legal proceedings was, therefore, crucial.

A comprehensive strategy to curb demand would be centred on social policies addressing the reasons for drug addiction and translating that knowledge into primary prevention activities. The European Union attached special importance to the European monitoring centre for drugs and drug addiction, which provided data on epidemiology, demand reduction and documentation.

At the international level, UNDCP played a fundamental role in coordinating initiatives in the fight against drugs. Its coordination role should be further strengthened, along with its cooperation with the Crime Prevention and Criminal

Justice Branch. It had done an excellent job in analysing the needs of individual countries and providing assistance in the establishment of national drug control master plans and the European Union hoped that voluntary contributions would increase, making a more adequate level of resources available for the Programme's crucial tasks.

Mr. BERROCAL SOTO (Costa Rica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that only through an integral and multifaceted international cooperation could the global scourge of drug abuse and the traffic in illicit drugs and psychotropic substances be eradicated. Since the Group of 77 believed that the development of effective drug control action required close international cooperation, it supported the efforts of the United Nations system and the international community towards that end.

For an international strategy to be effective, more accurate information was needed about the economic dimensions of the illicit drug problem and related criminal activities such as money-laundering in developed as well as developing countries. In that regard, pursuant to the recommendations of the International Narcotics Control Board, appropriate agreements should be developed to channel a portion of confiscated drug-related proceeds to the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in order to provide more support to poor countries in their fight against the illicit trafficking in and the production and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The international community must be able to monitor the evolution of the global drug problem through a comprehensive, dynamic and continuously updated system of information in order to improve the formulation of prevention and control policies, both at the national and international levels as well as to focus efforts and promote the development of a more effective global strategy against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of drugs.

Alternative development was a priority component in any approach geared to preventing and solving the problems created by illicit drug crops. Indeed, crop substitution should be an integral part of any international strategy against the illicit production, traffic and consumption of drugs. The thematic plans of action jointly prepared by a number of organizations provided a more focused approach to the various dimensions of drug trafficking and demonstrated the enormous potential for international cooperation through the United Nations system.

The Group of 77 hoped that the resolution adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs would be given the appropriate consideration so that a special session would be convened for the purpose, among other things, of proposing practical activities and specific measures to strengthen international cooperation in that field.

Mr. LOZANO GRACIA (Observer for Mexico) said that transnational criminal drug trafficking organizations had become the main threat to his country's national security. His Government had put into place a comprehensive strategy, set forth in its five-year national drug control programme (1995-2000), which was based on the conviction that controlling drugs demanded the participation of both the Government and society. The Government was updating its laws with a view to enhancing its capacity to combat organized crime, money-laundering, the diversion of precursors and arms trafficking. Educational institutions and the mass media were also being used in the efforts to control and reduce drug consumption. International cooperation was a fundamental facet of Mexico's drug control efforts. However, such cooperation should be conducted with full respect for the sovereignty, dignity and territorial jurisdiction of each State. The urgent need for international cooperation in that field had led to the proposal by President Zedillo for the holding of an international meeting on drugs. His Government was encouraged by the support that the proposal had received from the international community.

Implementation of a comprehensive and balanced programme of action required the organizations of the United Nations system, particularly UNDCP and the World Health Organization, to organize a worldwide campaign on the prevention of drug consumption; a renewed commitment of the international community to provide financial support for alternative development programmes that offered viable options to the primary producers of the crops from which illicit drugs were extracted; the restructuring of the regional meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies so as to facilitate and complement a flexible exchange of information that would permit States to combat the criminal organizations more effectively. Also, the United Nations, as the sole global forum, must make a special effort to agree on a uniform international instrument on money-laundering. Given the growing seriousness of the problem of controlling chemical precursors and the production of synthetic drugs, the United Nations could agree on an international cooperation instrument designed to eliminate the

diversion of such substances for illicit purposes. Finally, Member States must give the United Nations the resources to enable it to do its job properly; in particular UNDCP was uniquely equipped to monitor the problem at the global level.

Mr. VARNEY (United Kingdom) said that no country was immune from the impact of drug trafficking and changing trends in drug misuse which were often linked to both violent and acquisitive crime. The response to illicit drugs, both of the international community and of national Governments, must therefore be comprehensive and balanced. Strong action was needed to combat supply and trafficking and to reduce the demand for drugs. Countries also needed effective treatment strategies. His Government had put in place a comprehensive new strategy which maintained a vigorous and concerted effort in the field of enforcement whilst also placing increased emphasis on prevention and treatment, particularly amongst young people. His Government remained firm in its opposition to the legalization of any illicit drug and it would fully enforce all prohibitions provided for in the international drug control conventions.

All States must accede to and fully implement all three United Nations drug control conventions, in particular the 1988 Convention. That involved both the adoption and implementation of strong domestic legislation and policies, including action to stem the flow of drugs at source, and developing to the full the opportunities which the conventions provided for international cooperation.

The United Kingdom strongly supported, both in principle and financially, the leading role played by UNDCP in the international fight against drugs, particularly its regional and subregional approach and its efforts to promote greater focus on drug control issues in all relevant parts of the United Nations system. Alongside the efforts of UNDCP, the recommendations of the Group of Seven's Chemical Action Task Force and Financial Action Task Force had proved particularly valuable in promoting effective international cooperation to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals and to disrupt the traffickers' money flows.

Rather than contemplating new conventions or institutions efforts should be devoted to increasing the international community's understanding of the complex, different but linked components of the drug problem, ensuring that the mechanisms already in place were used vigorously and effectively, and securing maximum commitment to action by all those concerned with the drugs problem.

Mr. PARDO GARCIA-PEÑA (Colombia) said that while it was universally agreed that an integrated and balanced approach to the problem was needed which would enhance effective cooperation, concrete efforts to that end had been limited. What was needed was a new strategy which would be legitimate, credible and symmetrical in that it would be accepted and implemented by all nations and its costs and benefits would be fairly distributed. A genuine multilateral worldwide strategy must, in order to be effective, be based on technical, not political criteria, and must be constructed with the long-term view in mind.

While it was incumbent on individual States to combat all aspects of illegal drug trafficking and consumption including through the strengthening of legislation, they also had a duty to encourage international cooperation in that area. In that connection, the drug control components of the United Nations system had the potential to treat the problem in a balanced manner and must therefore receive adequate support from Member States.

Colombia had paid an inordinately high price in its efforts to remove the marijuana growers, destroy the Medellin cartel and disband the Cali cartel. All those efforts notwithstanding, the effects of illicit drugs remained the greatest of all the country's evils. The Government intended to complement those successes with greater international cooperation and stronger legislation to combat the cartels. New legislative initiatives were being adopted including heavier fines and longer prison terms against those who organized, promoted, financed or directed criminal organizations.

With regard to money-laundering, legislation would be enacted to permit attachment of the assets used to finance illicit drugs. The State also proposed to extinguish ownership in assets acquired from illicit earnings and to facilitate the enforcement of judgements as a contribution to global efforts to deprive criminals of internationally circulating assets.

The success of those measures, however, would depend on whether the international community tackled other aspects of the problem with equal determination. Drug consumption was on the rise throughout the world and profits from drug-related activities were several times greater than the gross domestic product of countries like Colombia. Tolerance of money-laundering exacerbated the nefarious consequences of narcotic drugs. The commitment given by the countries of the Americas at the Miami Summit to elaborate a hemisphere-wide instrument to combat money-laundering therefore marked a timely initiative.

One of the most effective strategies for reducing the supply of natural and synthetic illicit drugs was more stringent international control of the precursors and chemicals needed for their production. In that regard, the Andean countries and the European Union had established mechanisms to make it more difficult to obtain such materials and had concluded an agreement aimed at establishing effective control over the substances used in the manufacture of illicit drugs.

While the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the Commission on Narcotics, the current session of the Economic and Social Council and the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 1998 were all valuable instruments for eliminating the scourge of drugs, political will was needed to move the machinery forward. Members of the international community must resist the temptation to blame one another and focus instead on reducing addiction and trafficking.

Mr. ARAOZ (Argentina) said that, in tackling the challenge of illicit drugs, it was essential to recognize that demand and supply were two sides of the same problem and that the solution must necessarily be global. Consumer countries had spent too much time blaming producer countries without reducing their own consumption, while producer countries in turn blamed consuming countries without themselves taking steps to eradicate illicit crops. Emphasis had been placed exclusively on suppression. Only by recognizing the fact that the drug problem reflected the pathology of a society that had lost its way could an international prevention and education system be designed to promote universal awareness of the irreparable damage which drugs caused to people, societies and the security of States.

Argentina had established very strict control over every stage of the marketing of precursors and other essential chemical substances. It was in compliance with the resolutions of the United Nations and the Summit of the Americas, which provided that all countries should characterize money-laundering as a crime, and legislation was also pending for the establishment of a central financial information agency to carry out investigations. Argentina also proposed to lift its banking secrecy laws in the belief that the need to protect the privacy of clients should not take precedence over respect for the law. National financial institutions were required to report all movements of capital in excess of US$ 200,000 per month or US$ 500,000 per year and were not

authorized to pay out cash amounts over US$ 10,000 without prior verification of the origin of the funds in question. Argentina's databases were being connected to those in other parts of the world in order to facilitate the prosecution of international criminals. Unlike certain others, his Government believed that it was wrong to promote development with capital of dubious origins. Capital gained from criminal activity was a corrupting influence, since it increased consumption and threatened the security of legitimate capital.

Argentina was also in the process of establishing a radar system on its borders to prevent illicit drug trafficking and was cooperating with other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean in training personnel in the fields of education, health, security, customs and the judiciary.

Those goals would not be complete, however, without a humanistic vision for the social reintegration of drug-addicted individuals by the State. Legalization of drugs would simply increase consumption without eliminating the mafia which trafficked in illicit drugs. Argentina sought a drug-free society not a society with the freedom to use drugs. In order to achieve that goal, what was needed were deeds and not words, co-responsibility and not blame, international cooperation and not isolationism, optimism and not fatalism.

Mr. ISMAIL (Malaysia) said that the threat posed by drugs must be collectively addressed by the international community by adopting a comprehensive, balanced and multidisciplinary approach.

While Malaysia was not a drug-producing country, it had a domestic drug-abuse problem and was used as a transit point for the onward trafficking of drugs. It was therefore committed to the elimination of that problem through both national efforts and collaboration with the international community.

The inability or unwillingness of authorities to take effective steps to reduce demand was as much responsible for increased trafficking and abuse as the inability or unwillingness of authorities to crack down effectively on cultivation and production. The drug trade thrived on the feebleness of governmental action and the unwillingness of society to firmly manifest its rejection of drug abuse.

At the national level, priority should be given to effective drug rehabilitation programmes, including the reintegration of drug addicts into society. Outreach programmes to prevent drug abuse should include the promotion of healthy activities in the field of sports and culture.

On the supply side, increased international cooperation was needed to monitor and prevent the unimpeded movement of drugs. Such cooperation could be intensified by promoting working relationships between countries and international organizations, developing cooperative programmes with them and enhancing the role of non-governmental organizations in drug abuse prevention programmes and activities.

During the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly, Malaysia was willing in principle to consider measures to increase international cooperation in the application of the law, to adopt and promote drug abuse control programmes and policies, and to develop programmes for the eradication of illicit crops. Drug abuse control programmes and policies to reduce demand for illicit drugs could not succeed, however, without improvements in the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, enhanced regional cooperation, and increased collaboration between customs authorities and other competent administrations on the one hand and the international trading community, including commercial carriers, on the other.

At the national level, Malaysia's long-term strategy was based on preventive education; promotion of public awareness and community action, manpower development, research and evaluation programmes; preventing the entry of drugs into the country and curtailing its supply within Malaysia through legislation, interdiction at entry points and international enforcement; and international cooperation and more effective coordination at the federal, state and district levels. A national drug database had also been established to help monitor and plan prevention programmes and to promote greater collaboration at the national, regional and international levels.

Mr. VELASCO (Chile) said that Chile's national drug control policy emphasized preventive action aimed at promoting awareness of the impact of substance abuse on the health of individuals and on society, treatment of addicts and their reintegration into society, severe penalties for those convicted of producing or trafficking in drugs, stringent border controls, restriction of access to chemical precursors and prevention of the laundering and use of the proceeds of drug-related activities.

At the international level, Chile's policy was based on the recognition that the task called for close international cooperation. Chile had ratified the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and

Psychotropic Substances and had enacted legislation during the previous year to penalize all criminal activities associated with illicit drugs. Regulations were also in force to facilitate international judicial cooperation, including the exchange of evidence, authorize the release of background materials from confidential preliminary proceedings in criminal cases, and permit the release of banking and financial information for use in investigations being conducted in other countries.

The Chilean judiciary had made a significant contribution to those efforts and its unequivocal position had served as a deterrent to serious crime. International judicial cooperation was provided and requests for extradition were granted provided the relevant legislation was complied with.

For its part, the legislature had approved one of the most comprehensive laws in the region, which penalized all drug-related criminal activities and gave the police and the courts the power to investigate and prosecute offenders while facilitating international judicial cooperation in cases of transnational offences.

The Government assumed responsibility for all activities related to the prevention of drug abuse and the suppression of illicit drug trafficking. Through the National Narcotics Control Council, it executed national drug policies and promoted greater awareness of the problem of drugs within all national institutions. The Council also made recommendations and coordinated the allocation of State resources.

In the area of control of supply, the activities of the competent national agencies were being coordinated and strengthened. Additional resources had been assigned to them, with special emphasis on training. At the international level, close cooperation had been developed with the United Nations Drug Control Programme, which had provided support for the elaboration of a subregional agreement involving Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru under which training was being provided in the areas of prevention and control. His Government was willing to increase its links with the United Nations, and specifically with UNDCP, by making its technical and professional resources available to it for the conduct of new joint projects.

It was a matter of some concern that many countries continued to produce large quantities of drugs, market essential chemicals without any controls and tolerate money-laundering, and that powerful organizations were financing the

illicit production of drugs in third countries with a view to importing them into their own countries. Emphasis must continue to be placed on preventive measures and the treatment and rehabilitation of victims through programmes that enjoyed broad community support.

Mr. NAKAJIMA (Director-General, World Health Organization) said that an estimated 15 million people worldwide incurred a significant risk to health as a result of their use of psychoactive substances other than alcohol and tobacco. The number of drug injectors was also on the rise, particularly in some developing countries, with the attendant risks of HIV transmission, hepatitis and other infections. The health and social consequences of substance abuse were particularly severe for the poor. Drug users and their families were often excluded from society and family violence was often associated with substance abuse. In addition, the proportion of a family's earnings spent on alcohol, tobacco and other substances was greater at lower income levels, thereby taking away resources required to meet basic needs, such as food and housing, and seriously hampering efforts to overcome poverty.

One of the tasks of the World Health Organization (WHO) was to assess psychoactive substances in order to make recommendations to the United Nations concerning their international control and to ensure that international treaty obligations were fulfilled. WHO helped to strengthen the capability of national regulatory agencies through training and the development of regulatory guidelines and methodologies. It also promoted the rational use of controlled medicines by fostering rational prescribing practices and disseminating knowledge about the factors that influenced the use and abuse of psychoactive medicines.

WHO also sought to ensure that the social consequences of substance abuse were taken fully into account in the public health agenda at the national, regional and global levels. It supported member States by strengthening their capacity to prevent and reduce those consequences and by developing guidelines for the continued epidemiological surveillance and assessment of trends in the use of psychoactive substances and its consequences. It also compiled and disseminated periodical reports on substance abuse in member States.

The establishment of easily accessible services that were capable of providing effective and affordable care and social, psychological and educational support to all concerned could only be achieved by strengthening

community-based approaches and primary health care. All health professionals must be trained in methods of diagnosis, early intervention, treatment and referral of cases involving the abuse of psychoactive substances.

Recent changes in attitudes towards substance abuse and in the types and patterns of substance abuse itself had been accelerated by urbanization, poverty, migration and the dispersal of families and communities. Increased access to information and contact with other cultures as a result of the globalization of travel and communication had also played an important part.

Of particular concern were the increase in substance abuse and its changing patterns in developing countries. The downward trend in the use of illicit drugs in many industrialized countries also appeared to be changing. Not only was the use of psychoactive substances increasing but use was starting at an earlier age. In some parts of the world, illicit methamphetamine was now competing with cocaine as a result of the ready availability of precursors and easy access to manufacturing technology.

Success in preventing substance abuse and its related health and social problems depended on the ability of countries to cooperate with each other. Too many social and economic factors were involved for any one national or international entity to tackle on its own. A stronger international focus on demand reduction was required while efforts must also continue to reduce the supply of illicit drugs. For its part, WHO was capable of mobilizing a unique network of health care workers, administrators and scientists to promote cooperation in all countries and communities and within the United Nations system.

Mr. HOYER (Germany) said that drug abuse and drug-related crime posed a threat to the integrity and stability of the entire international economic, financial and political system. The old dichotomy between producer and consumer countries had become irrelevant and obsolete. All countries must share responsibility for tackling every aspect of the drug problem.

The United Nations had responded to the problem with a comprehensive and coherent global strategy in which UNDCP was the initiator, catalyst and coordinator. But despite all efforts, drug abuse, production and trafficking and drug-related organized crime had increased at an alarming rate.

The world's defences against drugs were not functioning effectively because there were too many gaps in the system. Too many countries had not ratified the

United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances or had failed to incorporate its provisions into their national laws. That was partly due to a lack of experience and shortage of institutional and material resources. In such cases, UNDCP and other international organizations could provide effective assistance.

The Programme's work had also been hampered by a steady decline in its financial resources. UNDCP was financed from voluntary contributions by a small number of countries, and he urged all countries in a position to do so to pay contributions.

The issue of repression was a central element in any discussion about drug abuse and drug-related crime, and his delegation wished to highlight two repression strategies that were potentially effective because they went beyond conventional law enforcement. The first was control of precursor chemicals which was designed to cut the drug cartels off from their means of production. The second was directed against money-laundering and aimed at the cartels' profits and influence. In order for those strategies to be effective, all States would have to work together in a spirit of solidarity.

Ultimately, however, repression alone could only produce short-term and partial results; it was equally important to tackle the underlying social causes of the drug problem. Generally speaking, it was grinding poverty and wretched living conditions which made farmers in Asia and Latin America turn to narcotic drugs in order to make a living. The concept of alternative development could make a difference by providing alternative and legal income-generating opportunities for producers of narcotic crops. It entailed a wide range of infrastructure-related measures designed to eradicate the economic and social causes of illicit narcotic crop growing. The approach was supportive rather than confrontational, and with its strong emphasis on poverty reduction, alternative development also squared with the general thrust of development policy.

Alternative development measures required substantial funds. Governments and international organizations must therefore look for new ways of securing a broad and stable financial basis for such a policy. The Council should make a strong appeal to the international community for appropriate funding.

On the question of reducing demand, the problem was how to directly protect the population, above all the young, from drug abuse and its disastrous

consequences. Prevention was the most important but also the most difficult challenge. Since the individual and social reasons for experimenting with and addiction to drugs varied from country to country, a wide range of prevention strategies were needed. However, the ubiquitous increase in drug consumption reflected a deep crisis. Traditional values were everywhere on the decline. Modern media were transmitting messages at odds with the influence and authority of religious institutions, the family and schools. State efforts at prevention must be complemented by the involvement of traditional institutions, and specialized non-governmental organizations had a particular role to play. Modern addiction prevention strategies aimed not just to deter but also to convince by developing people's awareness of what constituted good health. Prevention must start at a very young age and should be continuous, long-term and targeted.

Many of the measures that had been successful in the past were now inadequate to cope with the current scale and type of drug abuse. In particular, amphetamine-like stimulants were posing a very difficult challenge which Governments were ill-equipped to deal with. The United Nations had a substantial role to play in prevention, therapy and rehabilitation. Member States must develop criteria to integrate their demand reduction policies into their economic, social and health policies. The United Nations should be strengthened as a focal point for the collection and dissemination of information, and also for international assistance and solidarity. His delegation therefore welcomed the UNDCP proposal to convene an expert group to draw up a declaration on demand reduction.

Mr. Moubarak (Lebanon), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Mr. COMANESCU (Romania) said that his delegation wished to add some specific comments to the statement made by the Italian delegation on behalf of the European Union. The drug problem had attained a global dimension and was having a widening impact on society at large; international cooperation had become an urgent priority requiring the kind of international action which the United Nations was best suited to take.

Renewed efforts were needed to consolidate present achievements and to make more effective use of the instruments at the disposal of Governments. His Government supported practical measures designed to enable UNDCP to increase its capacity to analyse and disseminate data, provide additional expertise for

action against money-laundering and illicit traffic in precursor chemicals, study the root causes of the drug problem and its economic and social consequences and promote cooperation with other centres of expertise. Policy makers and the international community should be fully aware of the importance and virtues of international cooperation. The drug problem was global and therefore required a global solution.

Since 1989, when Romania had opened its borders and relaxed controls on freedom of movement, the country had witnessed an upsurge of drug-related problems. The outbreak of war in the former Yugoslavia had aggravated the phenomenon by diverting the "Balkan route" of drug trafficking through Romania. Romania had increasingly become a holding area for drugs; an indigenous drug market had also developed. In countries with transitional economies, institutions designed to combat illicit drug trafficking and related criminal activities had only recently been established. Such countries needed special assistance from countries with well-established expertise, especially where the implementation of new legislation was concerned. Romania had benefited from the support of a number of international organizations in its fight against the drug menace, and was ready to participate in all forms of international cooperation.

Drugs could only be successfully dealt with by mobilizing political will and providing adequate financial and human resources. Special attention should also be devoted to preventive activities.

Ms. WALLSTRÖM (Sweden) said that in order to solve the drug problem, the international community needed to focus on every link of the drugs chain that stretched from producer to consumer. The problem was therefore multifaceted and could only be addressed effectively if international and national efforts were successfully combined.

Although a number of young people had experimented with or used drugs on a regular basis, the overwhelming majority chose not to use drugs. The goal of Swedish State policy was to make the country a drug-free society in which rejection of narcotics was the norm.

The normative aspects of multilateral cooperation to combat drugs were sound; the problem lay in ratification and implementation. Moreover, many countries urgently needed technical cooperation, which was a sadly neglected area of activity. It was incumbent on all multilateral organizations to give drug control a much higher priority. UNDCP had a special role to play in that

area. The Programme had several advantages over bilateral efforts, namely that it was free from national interests, it could act at the global as well as the regional level, and it had a reputation for expertise. However, to a large extent donors used the Programme for their bilateral programmes, thus compromising UNDCP's neutrality and ensuring that no general-purpose funds would be available for long-term activities or policy development. It was therefore incumbent on Member States to allocate sufficient resources to UNDCP, thereby strengthening it as an organization.

The Secretary-General's report had pointed out that 90 per cent of voluntary contributions to the Programme came from seven Governments and the European Commission, and that 60 per cent of general-purpose contributions were borne by just three countries, of which Sweden was one. The reason for the imbalance was lack of effective governance. Like so many other United Nations organizations, UNDCP needed to be reformed in order to place its financing on a more stable footing.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

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PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 11th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 25 June 1996, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. KOVANDA (Czech Republic)

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTICS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTICS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES (continued) (E/1996/18, E/1996/57)

Mr. WLOSOWICZ (Poland) said that his country's experience confirmed the unfavourable trends described in the informative report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances and related activities (E/1996/57).

Three factors should guide the international community in its drug control efforts. Firstly, it was essential to ensure universal respect for the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session and of the relevant and international agreements. His delegation agreed with the Secretary-General that it was necessary to build up control mechanisms in order to facilitate closer cooperation between the public and private sectors, banks and other financial institutions. Money-laundering must be recognized as a criminal act, the flow of funds must be controlled so as to allow detection of illegal transactions and the international exchange of information should be strengthened.

Secondly, it was necessary to ensure a balanced approach to supply and demand reduction. To that end, his delegation supported the proposal to consolidate, within the framework of a declaration, the guiding principles of demand reduction and believed that a working group of experts should be established to prepare the draft declaration and the required definitions. Drug abuse prevention should be a component of every country's economic and social planning process.

Thirdly, the effort to combat illicit trafficking in drugs and drug abuse required the cooperation of all interested organizations and institutions, including non-governmental, professional and commercial organizations, universities and schools, sports associations and the mass media. Drug control issues should be dealt with by all relevant United Nations bodies, including the international financial institutions.

His delegation welcomed the progress achieved thus far and the active interest of the Administrative Committee on Coordination in the subject and stressed the need for continued cooperation at the field level. His country would continue to support the leading role of the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and, in particular, agreed that national drug control master plans should be encouraged. A set of guidelines for the preparation of master plans would help countries to adapt international standards to their own economic and social requirements. His delegation welcomed the practical guidance provided by UNDCP, particularly with respect to legislative measures. It also supported the convening of a special session of the General Assembly devoted to the question of the enhanced effectiveness of international action to combat illicit traffic and international crime. His country would spare no effort to support the international community's efforts to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

Mr. VIÑAS (European Community) said that the fight against drugs and drug abuse was a priority for the European Union. The European Commission shared the assessment by UNDCP of the economic and social dimensions and implications of drugs. Partners in intraregional trading arrangements must devise appropriate cooperation mechanisms to eliminate the risk that such arrangements might diminish the chances of seizing illicit drugs. If the political will to do so existed, those risks could be eliminated. The European Community was establishing the required cooperation mechanisms.

An integrated and global strategy to address drug-related issues should reflect the recognition of the interdependence of the various aspects of the phenomenon and the shared responsibility and solidarity of nations. The fight against demand, which must be waged at the national and local levels, was crucial for the success of international joint efforts, and must be all-encompassing, covering plant-based narcotic drugs, synthetic drugs and psychotropic substances.

The approach adopted by the European Commission with respect to international cooperation against drugs was guided by the Global Programme of Action and bilateral agreements between the European Union and third States, and drew upon European Community competences. Since 1987, the European Community had committed more than $140 million to combat the demand for and production of illicit drugs and to support law enforcement efforts, particularly against

money-laundering and the diversion of chemical precursors. Demand control projects, which accounted for some 60 per cent of the funds committed, adhered to the principle of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, meaning that drug abusers were deemed to be in need of medical, psychological and social care.

Another 30 per cent of the funds had been allocated to combat drug production, primarily by encouraging growers voluntarily to grow alternative crops and helping them to emerge permanently from absolute poverty. The resulting increased supply of agricultural and industrial products must be matched by increased preferential access to external markets. The European Community had granted such access to certain exports of countries members of the Andean Pact and to Central American countries. Such measures allowed for a genuine dialogue and partnership and were more effective in the short and long term than external negative measures.

Additional European Community funds had been allocated primarily to support preparation of national drug control master plans and to assist countries with capacity- and institution-building, with special emphasis on money-laundering and the diversion of chemical precursors. Such support had been provided to eastern and central European countries and to the Andean Pact countries. The agreements signed by those countries with the European Community, which would be followed by others with additional sensitive destination countries, were remarkable because they went beyond the control measures envisaged by the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The European Commission planned to continue that broad-based strategy of external assistance.

Mr. MAYOR (Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)) said that the international community was losing the battle against the scourge of drug addiction as drug abuse among young people escalated worldwide. He deplored the fact that billions of dollars were spent on weapons while the funds allocated to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) had been reduced.

Although some positive steps had been taken to combat money-laundering, it was essential that it should be completely halted. Much was being done to reduce the supply of drugs and to educate in order to reduce demand. UNESCO, which had been promoting preventive education for over 20 years along with the

World Health Organization and UNDCP, believed that fostering positive values and warning of the dangers of drug abuse must be an integral part of every child's education. Teachers, decision-makers and the mass media must be mobilized for that effort. UNESCO and the European Commission had established a network of information in the field of prevention of drug abuse through education, and its newsletter, currently published in English, French and Spanish, soon also would be issued in Arabic and Russian. UNESCO and UNDCP also organized activities to involve young people in initiatives for drug prevention.

The best way to reduce demand was by empowering all human beings through education. He noted in that connection that, six years after the World Conference on Education for All (Jomtien, Thailand, 1990), the number of illiterates, drop-outs and children not attending school had decreased. In addition to education, rigorous and courageous decisions were needed immediately, particularly for high-risk children. Governments must reshape their budget priorities to adequately fund a global strategy to combat the supply and demand of drugs. It was also essential to reflect on why children sought in drugs the support, hopes and dreams with which contemporary society was unable to provide them.

Mr. MATTHEWS (South Africa) said that his country's emergence from isolation had not been an unmixed blessing, for it had become a major transit country for international drug dealers and drug abuse among its population was increasing. It was not, however, a major producer of illicit drugs destined for international markets.

His country was very active in regional counter-narcotics efforts and cooperated closely with its neighbours. It had hosted the European Union/Southern Africa Development Community drug conference in 1995 which had worked on a draft protocol on combating illicit drugs in the region.

Money-laundering was a significant problem in South Africa, although the absence of general money-laundering legislation made it impossible to determine the extent or scope of the crime. A cabinet-level committee had drawn up a very comprehensive crime prevention strategy in May which accorded drug control high priority. Immediate measures also had been adopted in the annual police plan to deal with the problem.

South Africa faced a serious dilemma. Having fought for a long time against all the evils of a police state, its people attached the utmost

importance to human rights and civil rights. However, drug control efforts appeared to require the reintroduction of some of the instruments which in the past had been used to oppress the population. His country therefore would welcome the advice of more experienced democratic countries as to how to maintain a balance between the need to suppress the drug trade and crime in general and the need to protect human rights and civil rights. Assistance was needed, for example with respect to the education and training of the population and the police.

Mrs. BOKOVA (Bulgaria) said that the political declaration and the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session and General Assembly resolution 48/12 provided appropriate policy directives and guidelines for drug control measures. However, their implementation in practice was far from satisfactory. Adherence to the relevant United Nations drug control conventions was essential if the efforts of the international community to combat drugs were to prove successful. Her country adhered to all those conventions and had established a special programme to counter organized crime and terrorism, the illicit arms trade, money-laundering and other drug-related criminal activities.

The role of the Economic and Social Council in addressing the alarming impact of narcotic drugs on society and economic development should be further strengthened. Resident representatives of the United Nations Development Programme, in their capacity as representatives of UNDCP, should be encouraged to promote the synergy of drug control activities at the field level. The UNDCP coordination mechanisms for drug control assistance to central and eastern European countries - which were particularly vulnerable to drug-related crime owing to the inadequacy of their institutional and legislative systems and the scarcity of resources - should be improved. Her country was finalizing its national master plan on the basis of the UNDCP guidelines. The general views and concrete proposals of her Government for future cooperation with UNDCP were contained in a document submitted to the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

Project implementation was a key component of the UNDCP endeavour. Bulgaria was confronted with ever-growing problems because of its location on the so-called Balkan route of illicit trafficking. In combating illicit drug trafficking, drug abuse and drug-connected crimes, combined efforts were

required to support both national and international policies. Due attention must be paid to the full implementation and subregional ongoing projects and new projects. Bulgaria reiterated its full commitment to participate actively in the implementation of UNDCP regional projects.

Another priority in Bulgaria's cooperation with UNDCP was demand reduction through public awareness and preparedness. Activities included the training of teachers on primary prevention in schools, work with children at risk, including street children and the development of materials for university students and national campaigns against drugs. In view of the increased internationalization of the trafficking of precursors and essential chemicals, Bulgaria was placing particular emphasis on international cooperation in that field. A special working group was engaged in bringing Bulgaria's legislation into line with the relevant international legal instruments, the law of European Union countries, and also the UNDCP Model Law. The creation of a common national information system for the monitoring and control of precursors and chemicals was an area in which international technical assistance was needed. Such a system would speed up the internal and international exchange of viable data and statistics.

In view of its declining resources, UNDCP must concentrate on priority issues of drug control. At the same time, a stronger effort should be made by all countries to ensure adequate financing through an increase in voluntary contributions to UNDCP.

Bulgaria appreciated its cooperation with the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), which had helped it eliminate deficiencies in the legal and institutional system for combating drugs. It believed that the role of INCB should be strengthened and supported.

Bulgaria agreed that the United Nations system needed to improve its operational interaction with the relevant intergovernmental organizations. It also supported the proposals to convene a special session of the General Assembly on drug issues.

Ms. SOLBERG (Observer for Norway) said that the prevention of alcohol and drug abuse and the reintegration of alcohol and drug addicts into their local communities were important not only in reducing the sufferings of the individuals and families concerned, but also in reducing poverty and contributing to social development at the global level. It was disturbing that the gains made through development cooperation could easily be undermined by the

consequences of substance abuse. Norway was gratified that the importance of combating drug abuse problems and illicit trafficking in drugs had been reflected in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action.

Norway had no difficulty in complying with the recommendations set forth in the report of the Secretary-General (E/1996/57); Norwegian penal law was already in line with the standards set by the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The law had been amended to cover all forms of money-laundering.

Norway shared the opinion expressed in the report of the Secretary-General (E/1996/57) that a well-founded framework for government action and international cooperation existed. It noted with appreciation that an increasing number of agencies in the United Nations system were addressing the issue within their respective fields of competence. At the same time, the role of UNDCP remained essential in ensuring productive cooperation between the various United Nations organizations involved and bilateral donors. Norway therefore supported the proposals aimed at widening the donor base and strengthening the financial situation of UNDCP. It planned to increase its contribution to UNDCP for 1996 by $1 million, intended for a global primary prevention initiative to be executed in close partnership with the World Health Organization and non-governmental organizations at the international, national and local levels. It hoped to make a similar annual grant for 1997-2000.

Governments and international organizations must keep up the fight against illicit drugs. Any move to liberalize the non-medical use of drugs would lead to an expansion of demand, be harmful to public health and social well-being and be contrary to existing provisions of the international drug control treaties.

It was important to make a restrictive policy part of a multidisciplinary, comprehensive approach, with health promotion, prevention and treatment measures included in the total effort. While it was gratifying that demand reduction strategies had gained more attention in recent years, they must not be allowed to overshadow the unresolved problems of illicit supply, production and trafficking.

Mr. AHMED (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)) said that, with its focus on poverty eradication and sustainable human development, UNDP maintained a keen interest in the illicit drugs debate. It was clear that

poverty and the absence of attractive alternative economic opportunities were the main factors contributing to growers' continued involvement in drug production. The principal drug-growing regions were among the most impoverished and economically stagnant in the world, and their standards of living were continuing to decline. The trafficking of illicit drugs contributed to social disorganization and disintegration. Increasingly, the link between the injection of drugs and the transmission of the human immunodeficiency virus was of concern.

UNDP initiatives in drug abuse control had continued to grow in line with available resources. The introduction in 1992 of a special programme resources line of US$ 3.5 million for drug abuse prevention and control had enabled UNDP to support a range of drug-related activities in all five regions and to better integrate drug control issues into sustainable human development activities, particularly at the national level. The work of UNDP at the national, subregional, regional and global levels had been strengthened by its collaboration with UNDCP and other United Nations agencies. Under the new working arrangements with UNDCP, issued in October 1993, UNDP resident representatives had the responsibility of representing the interests of the two organizations at the country level. UNDP resident representatives were coordinating and harmonizing drug-related activities within the overall national development agenda, using such tools as the country strategy note and UNDP round-table meetings. In addition, they encouraged informal coordination through inter-agency working groups.

UNDP had judiciously used its special programme resources to buttress national-level coordination efforts by implementing a number of projects which reinforced the integration of the illicit drug issue into the wider development context and encouraged inter-agency collaboration.

At the subregional and regional levels, UNDP had on its own, and in partnership with UNDCP, launched a number of innovative activities which sought to place the issue of illicit drugs within the wider context of sustainable human development. At the global level, UNDP was involved in the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control.

UNDP had learned that the integration of drug issues into other thematic and substantive issues on which there was inter-agency consensus was an important way to promote the topic in the country, subregional and regional

context. Cross-sectoral, integrated programmes with people-centred approaches were an effective way of promoting an inter-agency collaborative approach to addressing the problem. Governments perceived UNDP drug-related assistance to be most relevant in two areas: the cross-sectoral areas, and the development of action plans which complemented the more focused drug abuse control activities of UNDCP.

Mr. LAVROV (Russian Federation) said that, given the magnitude of the drug threat in the world and its cross-border nature, no one State was in a position to effectively combat it; there must be a synergy of efforts by the world community. The basic parameters of General Assembly resolution 48/12 had proved to be correct, although the strategy should be adapted to changing realities. His delegation welcomed the consensus regarding the feasibility of convening a special session of the General Assembly on narcotic drugs. The proposals by the UNDCP Executive Director for amendments in the international conventions on narcotic drugs deserved serious consideration; nevertheless, those conventions served as an effective legal basis for international and national efforts in the field. His delegation called on all States which had not yet done so to accede to the conventions without delay. In 1996, the Russian Federation had become a party to the 1972 Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961.

The Russian Federation fully supported the position of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and INCB regarding the inadmissibility of the legalization of the non-medical use of narcotic drugs. It believed that UNDCP should enhance its efforts to provide technical assistance to Member States in the field of drug money-laundering and at the same time play a more substantial role in coordinating practical joint action to combat drug money-laundering.

International cooperation should be developed in the sphere of the control of the traffic in precursor chemicals. Article 12 of the 1988 Convention must be fully implemented. An important issue was to ensure punishment of those involved in illicit drug trafficking and the elimination of safe havens.

Large-scale measures to counter illicit drug trafficking and abuse were being carried out in the Russian Federation. In 1993, the conceptual guidelines for common State policy on drug abuse control had been approved. A federal programme of comprehensive measures to combat drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking for 1995-1997 had been adopted at the governmental level. A number

of related bills were being considered by the Parliament. Efforts were being stepped up to enhance control of the production and distribution of narcotic drugs. Research was under way to improve aerospace methodology for detecting illicit crops. All those activities were being coordinated by a governmental commission.

In addition to its participation in all the universal drug control treaties, the Russian Federation had 46 bilateral intergovernmental and inter-agency drug control agreements with 44 countries. Priority attention was being paid to the establishment of a system of collective drug control within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The Heads of State of the Commonwealth had adopted an inter-State programme of joint measures to combat organized crime in the territory of CIS for the period up to the year 2000, which included action to combat drugs. A multilateral agreement on combating the illicit traffic of narcotic drugs had been signed by the Ministers of the Interior of the CIS member States in 1992. His delegation believed that, given the commonality of the drug-related problems facing the CIS member States, better coordination of the UNDCP programmes for those States would be very useful. Serious consideration should be given to establishing a special unit of UNDCP for cooperation with the CIS region, and to setting up a regional bureau for CIS, which could be based in Moscow.

The Russian Federation attached great importance to the expansion of bilateral cooperation with UNDCP, and to the development of practical cooperation between UNDCP and relevant Russian agencies.

Mr. SHAH (India) said that his delegation fully associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Costa Rica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

India was fully committed to the war against narcotic drugs; his Government had signed all three United Nations drug control conventions. The drug menace undermined the very foundations of organized society; the close connection between narcotics, gun-running and terrorism was clearly established. Narcoterrorism intrinsically violated fundamental human rights; democracies and pluralistic societies were particularly vulnerable to it. A determined effort was required on the part of all countries to tackle the threat.

Since the drug menace was a transnational problem, the United Nations was the appropriate body to address the issue and coordinate international

cooperation. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's recommendations on the need for more accurate knowledge about the economic dimensions of the illicit drug problem and for setting up mechanisms to facilitate multilateral decision-making and action against money-laundering. It also agreed that drug abuse prevention programmes should be comprehensive and multisectoral and that prevention of drug abuse by the young was of the utmost importance.

India's narcotics problem was largely transit-related, arising from its close proximity to the world's two major opiate-producing regions. Drugs originating from the so-called Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle regions flowed into India from either side and reached Western Europe, North America, and to a lesser extent other parts of the world. South-West Asia was a major source of drugs smuggled through India. 1995 had seen a spurt in narcotic seizures along that border. The flow of narcotics from South-East Asia was in much smaller quantities per drug run but was significant because of its purity and the difficulty of detection.

His Government accorded very high priority to bilateral cooperation in combating international drug trafficking and had bilateral agreements for mutual cooperation with a number of countries, which had proved to be very effective. Within South Asia, under the aegis of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), India was actively cooperating in monitoring and information activities.

India supported the proposal to convene a special session of the General Assembly in 1998 devoted to the control of narcotic drugs.

Mr. LOPES da MOTA (Portugal) said that his delegation fully supported the statement made by the representative of Italy on behalf of the European Union.

It was universally recognized that the phenomenon of drug abuse and drug trafficking had grown alarmingly in recent years. Globally, the drug problem was consuming increasing resources, representing a considerable burden for the economies and budgets of the States concerned.

In Portugal, there had been an aggravation of the problem in recent years. To confront that threat, Portugal had developed a balanced and harmonious policy in the areas of supply and demand. His Government had recently presented measures to Parliament to enhance the effectiveness of the control of the activities of drug traffickers by increasing penalties, improving criminal

investigation services and strengthening the system for the confiscation of illicit profits. A process of redefining the national drug control programme, "projecto vida", had been undertaken. Prevention was regarded as a priority, and the main objectives were to improve the capacity of the relevant public services and coordinate their activities, promote awareness and increase the participation of the public through non-governmental organizations and community bodies, and build up resources.

While States had responsibility for drug abuse control, Governments must be open to public debate in the search for adequate solutions, particularly when there were doubts about the effectiveness of some measures. It was essential to involve society in the prevention of drug abuse and in support for the rehabilitation of drug addicts.

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, based in Lisbon, was an important component of the action carried out by the European Union; its activities should contribute to a greater knowledge of the drug phenomenon at the world level.

Portugal believed that the United Nations and UNDCP, while taking into account the need for a balance in activities, should give greater attention to demand reduction. They should, as far as possible, coordinate their work with regional structures pursuing identical objectives in order to complement their efforts and make better use of resources. Portugal also hoped that other agencies of the United Nations system would pay greater attention to the problems of drugs and drug addiction in their plans of activities.

His delegation supported the proposal to convene a special session of the General Assembly on drug abuse control.

Mr. WANG Xuexian (China) said that, while progress had been made in implementing the Global Programme of Action (GPA), there was still much to be done to combat the rampant spread of drugs. Further progress would be assured by recognizing: the common responsibility of producing, consuming and transit countries to join their anti-drug efforts; the greater need on the part of developing countries for financial and technical assistance; and the importance of respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each and every country.

China faced a serious threat from transit and transnational drug trafficking, but had created a model of subregional anti-drug cooperation with

UNDCP and neighbouring countries. The Chinese Government's anti-drug policy placed equal emphasis on prohibiting the sale, cultivation and consumption of drugs, eliminating the sources of drugs, and strictly enforcing anti-drug laws. Despite the remarkable progress resulting from that policy, however, drug control remained an arduous task that required the assistance and support of the international community. China supported the convening of a special session of the General Assembly in 1998 on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

Mr. FERNANDEZ ESTIGARRIBIA (Paraguay) said that the drug problem and socio-economic development were interrelated. Moreover, consuming and producing countries could no longer be clearly distinguished. The spread of drug abuse and associated behaviours could be attributed to many factors, including the consequences of information globalization, population mobility, and the establishment of certain social models. Something was surely amiss in the world's richer societies if so many of their citizens had to resort to drugs in order to deal with their anxieties. In the poorer ones, drug cultivation often represented the only means of escape from the cycle of poverty.

One way in which the international community could deal with the continuing threat of drugs was through education designed to restore social cohesion, without attempting to single out victims and malefactors. Moreover, the exchange of views and experiences would contribute to a better understanding of the actions needed to deal with drug production and consumption in the face of new international realities.

Paraguay supported the efforts of the United Nations to strengthen the effectiveness of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and had signed and ratified both the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The emphasis of its national anti-drug policy was shifting towards combating the laundering of illegally derived profits, and it was preparing legislation designed to punish not only direct participants in drug trafficking but also those who abetted the trade in any way. It was also planning to update its National Plan in accordance with the recommendations of INCB.

While Paraguay would continue its struggle against drug trafficking and related activities, the United Nations should also continue to play a decisive

role in providing the means for exchanging the information and technical data that would stimulate and facilitate international cooperation. The globalization and complexity of the drug problem allowed no solution other than the eradication of poverty in the broadest sense of the term.

Mr. ROBLES OROZCO (Observer for Spain) fully supported the statement made by the representative of Italy on behalf of the European Union and stressed the need for a multidisciplinary, homogeneous and coordinated international response to the drug problem. The Spanish Government considered that policies for dealing with that problem required action in the areas of prevention, assistance and rehabilitation, control of drug supplies and illicit trafficking, and money-laundering. It was in the process of developing a "culture of drug rejection" comprising: specific and explicit education on healthy lifestyles in school curricula; informational and educational activities in various social groups and through the media; attractive occupational alternatives for young people; community initiatives, especially youth organizations; international cooperation in the area of prevention; alcohol-abuse prevention programmes involving adolescents especially; and programmes aimed at combating the production and abuse of synthetic or designer drugs. Moreover, the Government's new assistance and rehabilitation programmes treated drug abusers as sick people entitled to health assistance. Special attention would be devoted to programmes for minors.

The increasingly global economy made necessary the strengthening of international coordination and cooperation in combating money-laundering, which had become one of the most threatening aspects of drug trafficking. The Spanish Government intended to update and reform its penal law to deal with issues raised in that connection, such as witness protection and the handling of confiscated assets. It also intended to develop legislation to control the chemical precursors of illicit drugs.

While significant progress had been achieved through the work of UNDCP and the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), current methods of cooperation needed to be improved to deal with emerging challenges. Of particular importance in that area were the creation of an international statistical database and the promotion of alternative development programmes for developing countries.

Mr. OWADA (Japan) noted with concern that the illicit production, trafficking and use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs, was increasing in developing as well as developed countries, despite the efforts of Governments and UNDCP. He welcomed the timely response of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Economic and Social Council in establishing a course of action to be taken by UNDCP in strengthening international cooperation to control chemical precursors and their substitutes.

While attaching great importance to the General Assembly's Global Programme of Action (GPA) to combat illicit drug production, trafficking and consumption, Japan regretted that an adequate mechanism for monitoring progress in implementing that Programme had yet to be established. It therefore supported the convening of a special session of the General Assembly in 1998 as a means of generating the political impetus for effective implementation of the international conventions and instruments on drug control and of providing a forum for the discussion of measures to control stimulants and their precursors.

The Japanese Government was convinced that the United Nations should be the main focus in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking, and that within the United Nations system, UNDCP should take the lead in planning and coordinating the activities of the agencies concerned. It also supported the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, and therefore welcomed the collaboration among agencies at the planning stage called for by the ACC Subcommittee on Drug Control. However, he noted with regret the decline in resources being made available to UNDCP, which was straining its administrative and backstopping capabilities with regard to technical cooperation projects, and urged Member States to strengthen their commitment to international drug control.

In its follow-up to the Global Programme of Action, Japan had been carrying out educational and abuse-prevention activities at the national and local levels, with the participation of local governments and non-governmental organizations. It had also been maintaining close contact with authorities in other countries, and supported the establishment of subregional centres as an effective way to coordinate anti-drug strategy at that level. Lastly, in recognition of a causal link between poverty and the illicit production of narcotic drugs, Japan had supported development programmes aimed at achieving a supply reduction in areas of Asia and Latin America.

Mr. BONFUL (Ghana) said that his delegation fully supported the statement of the Chairman of the Group of 77 and shared the view that only a holistic, cross-sectoral and multifaceted approach would be effective in dealing with the drug menace.

The Government of Ghana had obtained positive results from various national strategies to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking, including enforcement measures, education and prevention programmes, the sensitization of the judiciary and the mass media, the involvement of local government agencies and non-governmental organizations, and the incorporation of anti-drug measures in programmes related to unemployment, health and rural development.

Ghana had been an advocate of an integrated subregional approach to the drug problem in the West African region, and it was a member of the Technical Committee charged with formulating anti-drug strategy at the subregional level under the auspices of UNDCP. Ghana called upon UNDCP to ensure that the Technical Committee should become operational, in order to deal with the illicit drug trafficking that was being facilitated by the rising cross-border trading between Ghanaians and other West African nationals.

Ghana had instituted a National Serious Fraud Office to deal with major economic crimes like money laundering, which had been facilitated by the liberalized investment climate in the industrial and financial sectors. It also called for the development of effective mechanisms for sharing information at the international level on the criminal activities and arrest records of drug dealers, in order to facilitate the eventual confiscation of such criminals' property.

Ms. TRONE (United Nations Population Fund) said that her agency was particularly interested in the linkage between drug-related problems and socio-economic development and strongly agreed that there was a need for multidisciplinary teamwork and consultation between drug-control and development-assistance organizations. Drug-related issues and population issues were similar in that the efforts needed to address them were multisectoral by nature, required multidisciplinary cooperation, and dealt at their cores with the empowerment of individuals, especially women and poor people at the margins of society. Such empowerment was instrumental in enabling women to resist the temptation of and pressures related to drug use and abuse, and had to take place at an early age through information and education.

There was also evidence of a close connection between drug use and poor reproductive health in some major cities. The drug subculture involved or condoned patterns of sexual behaviour which encouraged the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. Programmes to reduce the demand for drugs must therefore be integrated into social and health policies and programmes, and it was in that light that collaboration between UNDCP and UNFPA should be seen.

As a result of the collaboration between the two organizations, a range of programmes had been implemented at the country level aimed at maximizing the advantage of the multisectoral approach, encouraging responsible behaviour, reducing the demand for drugs, promoting the healthy development of adolescents and youth, and accentuating the positive aspects of peer group interactions. The joint and integrated nature of the programmes also enabled both organizations to take advantage of economies of scale in the areas of personnel utilization, informational-materials preparation and staff training, thereby avoiding duplication of input and enhancing the impact of the activities. Such integrated programmes also empowered young people to exert control over their own lives; such empowerment was the key to a drug-free future as well as sound reproductive health.

Miss DURRANT (Jamaica) endorsed the comments made by the representative of Costa Rica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and said that the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) had provided invaluable assistance to national efforts aimed at narcotics control. Her Government had enacted various laws for the full implementation of the 1988 Convention and was currently discussing draft legislation on money-laundering. Jamaica was implementing various General Assembly declarations and plans of action and, at the regional and subregional levels, had signed drug abuse and drug trafficking cooperation agreements with several Latin American countries and the United States. A meeting of Caribbean States, organized by UNDCP and held in Barbados in May 1996, had underlined the urgency and legitimacy of the need for greater regional cooperation in areas such as legislation, demand reduction, law enforcement and maritime cooperation.

National efforts to enforce anti-drug measures, including demand reduction programmes, public education and eradication of marijuana had been particularly successful in 1995. Arrests, seizures of cocaine and marijuana, and seizures of boats, aircraft and land vehicles had increased significantly. The greatest

achievement in the area of drug enforcement for 1995 had been the agreement between the Government of Jamaica and UNDCP for the establishment of the Caribbean Regional Drug Training Centre (REDTRAC), scheduled to begin operation in September 1996. Her Government was counting on the support of United Nations agencies and Member Governments to continue to provide human and financial resources to ensure the survival of REDTRAC.

Despite significant achievements in the area of law enforcement, supplies of narcotic drugs to international markets and demand for those drugs had not been drastically reduced. As the supply of narcotic drugs was market-driven, initiatives to reduce supplies had to be matched by efforts to reduce demand in receiver countries. Her Government welcomed the renewed efforts undertaken in some industrialized markets to reduce demand and the steps taken by the International Monetary Fund and other international institutions to assist countries to improve their banking supervision in order to stem the practice of money-laundering.

While international assistance had focused generally on eradication and enforcement, there was a need for greater awareness of the effects of eradication on the economic well-being of small farmers engaged in illicit narcotics production and for the development of sustainable alternative production programmes. In that regard, her Government drew attention to the request of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs that UNDCP should draw on voluntary contributions from Governments in the implementation of alternative development projects.

Finally, her Government expressed serious concern regarding the direct linkage between drug trafficking and trafficking in small arms and urged all countries involved in the manufacture of arms and ammunition to take steps to improve the vigilance of their customs and port security personnel. For their part, developing countries, despite their lack of adequate police forces to control their borders and coastal waters, needed to exercise stronger vigilance to curb the influence of drug cartels and drug barons over their vulnerable societies.

Mr. GUILLEN (Observer for Peru) said that his country was engaged in a series of efforts to rehabilitate drug addicts, encourage viable economic alternatives to the production of illicit substances and confront drug trafficking and related crimes. A global strategy to tackle the problem of

drugs at the international level should include a comprehensive assessment of the effectiveness of existing multilateral instruments and policies and the use of resources earmarked for narcotics control by the international community. International cooperation should encompass education and prevention of drug abuse and the development of viable economic alternatives for groups involved in the production of narcotic substances.

Effective legal and interdiction initiatives were needed to tackle the criminal aspects of drug trafficking. In Peru, the national police participated in campaigns of interdiction against crimes related to drug trafficking, and intervention by armed forces personnel was reserved for cases where activities impinged on national sovereignty. Priority was given to intelligence activities. Persons who cooperated with investigations by providing reliable information about leaders of criminal organizations were afforded exceptional treatment in the penal domain. In order to reduce crops of raw materials for drug production, programmes of alternative development and selective eradication had been introduced.

His Government took the view that a study of the mechanisms which determined demand for drugs was indispensable when defining appropriate programmes of prevention and rehabilitation of drug addicts. It was not sufficient to cast responsibility upon countries where raw materials used for unlawful purposes were produced. His Government also sought to dispel existing ambiguities in international conventions concerning cultivation of the coca plant and its consumption for traditional purposes. The traditional uses of the Andean natural resource were related to the culture of the peoples of Peru and deserved the respect of the international community.

Mr. KOHNSTAMM (Netherlands) supported the comments made by the representative of Italy on behalf of the European Union and emphasized that recognition of the drug problem and an open mind regarding solutions was a necessary first step in addressing that difficult issue. Despite the many efforts to combat drug abuse, it appeared that present strategies were neither realistic nor effective. Solutions to the drug problem could only be found through a process of trial and error. His Government had tried several different and often innovative approaches, some of which had produced durable results. Special attention was given to reducing the use of hard drugs, as the damage they caused was far more serious than that caused by the use of cannabis.

separating the market for users of soft drugs from that of hard drugs, the mber of cannabis users that turned to hard drugs was remarkably low. The sic principle of separating the markets had been clearly successful and his vernment did not prosecute in cases of possession of small amounts of cannabis r personal consumption.

In the larger cities, measures had been adopted to create jobs, improve fety and security in urban centres and intensify the social assistance given drug users. Such measures had helped to ease other drug-related problems, ich were especially prevalent in larger cities. As a consequence of its refully balanced mix of policies, the Netherlands had low overdose fatality d morbidity rates among drug addicts, and the rate of infection with HIV and iseases such as hepatitis was comparatively low. While heroin, the main hard rug, had clearly lost its popularity among young people, there had been an ncrease in the use of synthetic drugs, which were gaining popularity among oungsters in Western Europe.

Considerable progress had been made in the area of law enforcement and riminal justice and in terms of public health. Since 1993, his Government had anaged to unravel over one third of the known highly organized crime yndicates, most of whose activities centred on drug trafficking. Customs fficers had achieved results using sophisticated analysis techniques at irports. The Netherlands gave high priority to criminal investigation and rosecution, with organized crime as a special target.

Supporting the view that the confiscation of the proceeds of crime was one f the most effective instruments in combating organized crime, his Government ad been one of the first to introduce measures to counter money-laundering. However, to improve their effectiveness, global application of those or similar easures was vital. In that connection, his Government called on all countries to implement internationally agreed upon measures to counter money-laundering and endorsed the appeal for closer international cooperation to confront the challenge of the drug problem.

Mr. SCAVARELLI (Observer for Uruguay) said that international and national efforts to tackle the drug problem should be based on a deep conviction that the drug phenomenon directly affected the human condition and the capacity to live in liberty, solidarity and with responsibility. The use, production and trafficking of illegal drugs and related crimes represented a real danger that

had led the Organization of American States to create a high-level working group with a mandate to define an anti-drug strategy for the hemisphere. The 10-year anniversary of the conclusion of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances should be commemorated in 1998 with a renewed commitment by the General Assembly to activities that involved all countries, regardless of their strategic position.

The balanced reduction of both the demand and the supply of illegal drugs must be the basis of any action by the international community. Planning and executing national programmes for the reduction of demand and supply and the search for more efficient applications according to the realities of each region were essential requirements for long-lasting comprehensive solutions. His Government was convinced that with the efforts and mutual respect of all countries better results would be achieved for present and future generations.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

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Substantive session for 1996

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 12th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 26 June 1996, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. GERVAIS (Côte d'Ivoire)

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTICS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTICS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES (continued) (E/1996/18, E/1996/57)

Mr. REYN (Observer for Belgium) said that the drugs menace could be dealt with only through international cooperation. His Government was actively involved in fighting drugs at the international level and had ratified all international instruments on the subject. It was totally opposed to the legalization of any narcotic substances.

Initially, anti-drug policy had been geared exclusively towards repression; that approach had failed compelling the authorities to rethink their strategy. Drug control resources had been redeployed and Government efforts were now equally divided between preventive, curative and repressive measures; they included expansion and diversification of drug-related health-care funded from confiscated drug revenues; improved and better-organized care for addicts; more focused public awareness campaigns; research; provision of facilities to reintegrate addicts into society; and a wider array of police and judicial measures to crack down on drug dealing.

In order to be effective, regional anti-drug initiatives must be combined with international efforts under the auspices of the United Nations. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had a vital role to play in the worldwide fight against narcotic substances, and greater efforts should be made by Member States to ensure that their strategies and resources were more closely coordinated.

Mr. COKREVSKI (Observer for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that the illicit production, circulation and trafficking of narcotic substances was an international threat, as were the international criminal groups engaged in such activities and in drug-related crime.

One of the root causes of the problem was that many traditional values were no longer respected or had been abandoned altogether. That kind of social situation provided fertile ground for drug abuse, particularly among the young.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was a transit point on drug routes through the Balkans, and the competent State authorities had long been employing various measures to prevent drug-related crime. Some of their initiatives had been successful, for example disrupting the activities of organized drug runners. His Government had acceded to the United Nations conventions on narcotics and was acting in accordance with the provisions thereof. The provisions of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances had been incorporated into the country's new Criminal Code, the Law on Criminal Proceedings and the Law on Narcotics, all of which were in the process of being ratified by the national parliament. In addition, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was building a modern, skilled and professional police force which would acquire expertise through an exchange of experience with other police forces around the world. His Government had also been active in anti-drugs cooperation at the regional and European level.

Mr. ZELTNER (Observer for Switzerland) said that much had been done by the international community in recent years to combat the drug menace, but the efforts had achieved mixed results. The international community should not allow itself to be discouraged by setbacks, but should take the opportunity to critically evaluate future strategies; it should do so in a spirit of open-mindedness, ready to learn from the experiences of others and prepared to experiment where necessary. In particular, regional measures needed to be planned with an eye to their global impact.

The Swiss Government was also concerned at the seeming incompatibility between observance of human rights on the one hand and greater police powers to combat the drug menace on the other. That dilemma affected both newly established and long-established democracies. Greater information was needed about the comparative advantages and disadvantages of giving the police more power. Studies on the subject were extremely scarce, and he appealed to Member States to conduct relevant research which could then serve as a basis for discussion by the international community.

Mr. AL-TAHAWY (Egypt) said that his country had played an active role in efforts to combat the drug problem, and was convinced of the need for international cooperation. As part of the United Nations Global Programme of Action Egypt had trained law enforcement officers for the Arab countries and

newly independent Commonwealth States; and it had hosted a recent meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies.

Because of its geographical position Egypt was a transit point for drugs, mainly cannabis. Egypt exchanged information with many countries to reduce the production and import of cannabis, which was consumed locally, and had drawn up a number of bilateral conventions on drugs. As a result, the price of cannabis had risen in Egypt.

His Government was in the process of adopting new legislation concerning money-laundering which would take into consideration the 40 recommendations made by the Group of 77 and the United Nations in 1993. It had established a National Council for the Control and Treatment of Drug Addiction, headed by the Prime Minister and had also brought Egyptian Narcotics Law into line with the United Nations Vienna Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988).

Egypt meted out severe punishment to officials who were found guilty of abuses of power and corruption. Those who used or dealt in drugs but who gave themselves up to the authorities were exempt from punishment and received treatment.

Since 1991 the United Nations had played a leading role in the worldwide fight against drugs, and had helped Egypt strengthen its national mechanism against drugs thereby preventing it from becoming a producer country.

His delegation expressed concern at the limited volume of assistance given to the campaign against drugs internationally. Egypt, despite its economic difficulties, offered token assistance to the United Nations in the hope that other States and international financial bodies would follow suit and provide more funds to combat drugs, without interfering in the internal affairs of States or impinging on their sovereignty.

Egypt considered that it would be useful to have a special session of the General Assembly in 1998 devoted to strengthening international cooperation to combat drugs and psychotropic substances.

Ms. FERRERO-WALDNER (Observer for Austria), complementing the statement by the representative of Italy on behalf of the European Union, said that since its inception, UNDCP had concentrated on the need to include drug control elements in development strategies and to place the drug issue at the top of the agenda with regard to international cooperation in the economic and

social fields. Indeed, the institutional effort made by the United Nations during the first half of the United Nations Decade Against Drug Abuse (1991 to 2000) had been remarkable. UNDCP had assumed its leadership role within the institutional system and had developed a System-wide Action Plan, which should serve as a basis for individual agencies to plan, develop and implement drug control activities.

Cooperation had also been greatly expanded with organizations such as the World Health Organization and the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch. In that context her delegation urged the establishment of a joint unit on money-laundering. Work with UNDCP had been promising, but required further strengthening. More also needed to be done in cooperation with the international finance institutions.

In addition, the Austrian Government urgently wished to see the development of a comprehensive and unified information system with reliable data on illicit drug trafficking. The drug menace should be countered by a comprehensive approach that encompassed demand reduction as well as supply reduction. The action of the United Nations system was as indispensable as that of individual Member States, groups of States and the involvement of civil society. UNDCP's information and analysis role should prepare the ground for sound policy decisions. Its advocacy role should motivate all players into making their contribution. Its technical cooperation capacity should be available to assist countries at their request, to implement model projects and to fill gaps left by other international efforts.

International drug control should remain a top priority of the United Nations Medium-term Plan for 1998-2000; UNDCP's leadership role in the United Nations system should be reconfirmed; it should be provided with the financial resources to fulfil its specialized leadership function; and Governments should pledge to overcome legal and practical barriers to the promotion of effective international cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of drug traffickers.

Mr. WOLZFELD (Luxembourg) said that a global, integrated and diversified approach was needed to the multifaceted problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Subsequent to its ratification of the 1988 United Nations Convention, his Government had established a fund to combat drug trafficking

with the goal of elaborating, coordinating and implementing the measures it had taken in fulfilment of its obligations under the Convention.

The social dimension of drug abuse was undoubtedly the most visible, and prevention within an integrated approach had proven to be the best weapon. Education programmes had been undertaken, both in the schools and at the local government level, along with rehabilitation programmes. Luxembourg had also begun to record some positive results from the methadone programmes targeted at long-term addicts who had not succeeded with other treatments.

The United Nations provided the international community with the most appropriate framework for the development of a coordinated approach to drug control. Luxembourg supported the proposal to convene a special session of the General Assembly in 1998 devoted to combating drug abuse. It hoped that the new System-wide Action Plan would bear fruit and in conclusion paid tribute to the efforts of UNDCP.

Mr. PATOKALLIO (Finland) said that, from the report of the Secretary-General, it could be concluded that the distinction between consumer and producer countries had long ago lost its relevance. Drug abuse and trafficking were driven by the vast gaps in standards of living and in equality of opportunity. The drug problem must also be seen in the context of development: poverty was one of the important underlying causes of drug production and consumption. Promoting alternative income-generating opportunities and alleviation of poverty was one effective way to approach the problem in developing countries. Efforts to promote good governance and increased political accountability, through democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law and anti-corruption measures, were also vital.

The economic and political transformation of post-communist societies had brought market forces to bear on the nascent democracies, but unfortunately, that very transformation had also provided better opportunities for drug trafficking. In the light of those changes in its eastern European neighbours, Finland had been obliged to review its drug policy. It had witnessed a marked increase in the risk of being exposed to international drug trafficking, as a transit country, and had pursued an approach focusing on reduction of both supply and demand in its subregion.

In Finland, social services, including treatment and rehabilitation, were universally accessible, which had contributed to the prevention of the drug

problem. Future risks were mainly associated with continued high unemployment rates among young people. Alcohol was the most frequently abused intoxicant, and a combined approach to alcohol and drugs had been employed.

The valuable work on demand reduction undertaken by UNDCP should be supplemented by enhanced regional and subregional cooperation. The ambitious tasks and goals for UNDCP set out five years earlier were threatened by its diminishing resources. Broadening the donor base by increasing the sense of ownership might be a way forward, but much discussion was still needed on how that could be accomplished.

Mr. McCAFFREY (United States of America) said that his Government was well aware that it could not fight drug abuse and trafficking alone, and paid tribute to the work of UNDCP and United Nations leadership in that area. The fight against drug abuse had been the highest internal priority in the United States for the past 15 years, and some significant progress had been made in demand reduction. Since 1980, the number of regular drug abusers had dropped from 23 million to 11 million; cocaine use was down by 30 per cent.

Nevertheless, major challenges remained. Among adolescents use of cigarettes and alcohol had increased alarmingly and drug abuse had doubled, indicating that a new generation needed to be educated about its dangers. The United States Government would not legalize drug use, and had vigorously enforced its laws against drug use and trafficking. As a result, over 1 million people were currently imprisoned for drug-related offences, but it was clear that police action would not solve the problem, and that education must be at the centre of all efforts. The 2.7 million drug addicts in the United States out of a total population of 265 million was a relatively small number, but represented an enormous cost to society. An approach combining treatment with law enforcement was aimed at that group. In the light of recent experience, the Government had changed its approach from the so-called "war on drugs" to focus on treatment and rehabilitation as the best means to reduce the violence and other ills associated with drug addiction.

The problem was not United States demand, but the production of illegal drugs. A number of Governments, notably Peru, Mexico, Thailand and Brazil, had made great strides in reducing production, for which the United States was grateful. A final solution to the problem would be found only through the work

of international and regional organizations such as the Organization of American States and the United Nations, however.

Mr. BĚLOHLÁVEK (Czech Republic) said that increased consumption and abuse of drugs in the Czech Republic was largely a by-product of trade liberalization and the opening of frontiers since 1989. His country was located along the so-called "Balkan route", and in fact, the recent rise in standards of living had transformed it from a transit country to a target country. With the expansion of international trade, intensified international cooperation in drug seizures was particularly welcome.

The Czech Republic had ratified all three of the major international drug conventions, and was in the process of introducing international legal norms into its domestic legislation. It was amending its penal code to include a number of provisions to combat drug dealing and to regulate the handling of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor and essential chemicals.

The strategy for primary prevention of drug abuse was aimed at children and young people. Most drug users in the Czech Republic were secondary school and university students from the higher social strata who were experimenting with drugs to test social limits or because they had no positive ways to use their leisure time. Education and peer prevention programmes were the main components of the prevention strategy.

The Czech Republic believed that, by respecting the principle of voluntary contributions and not fixing set quotas, the current difficulties in financing UNDCP could be overcome so that it could continue and broaden its work.

Mr. MOHAMED (Guyana) said that no country, developed or developing, could afford to be complacent about the problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Because of its economic limitations, Guyana could not provide the human and material resources required to detect and interdict the quantity of illicit drugs transshipped through its territory. The slow pace of the establishment of legal machinery to deal with drug-related matters and the inexperience of its financial institutions in dealing with money-laundering further heightened the risk of penetration and corruption. Guyana's situation was not unique; its sister States in the Caribbean, by virtue of their geographic location, were especially vulnerable to drug trafficking. At a recent meeting, the countries of that region had adopted a number of measures to strengthen the regional machinery to withstand further encroachment by drug

trafficking. Alliances must be formed at the international level as well, however.

The goal of international cooperation should be to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to play a more effective role in the fight against drugs. Possible measures could include a strong and sustained educational campaign on the consequences of drug trafficking and abuse, development and implementation of legal, regulatory and administrative mechanisms, training of personnel in drug-related disciplines, financial, technical and material support, incentives to encourage drug cultivators to engage in traditional agriculture and establishing and managing drug information systems. In the current international environment of heavy debt burdens and diminishing levels of assistance, development agencies within the United Nations system might reorient their programmes to assist in such a campaign. A strong argument could be made for the establishment of a trust fund to support developing countries in their efforts to combat drug trafficking. The preventive approaches currently being emphasized would, in the long run, be less costly to the international community as a whole.

Mr. ABDELLAH (Tunisia) said that the globalization of drug production and trafficking had made it both more difficult and more imperative to find new ways to safeguard the security and development of countries most affected by that scourge.

Among the countries most vulnerable to drugs were those with weak economic and political structures, few drug control agencies and few or no appropriate regulatory provisions for dealing with drug-related problems. Their economic and political stability was threatened by drug trafficking and money-laundering, while drug abuse engendered high social and economic costs. There was a very real risk that powerful criminal organizations in those countries could undermine the public and private sectors, through corruption or the establishment of outright control over them.

The international community had taken many steps to deal with the drug phenomenon, and yet the scale of the problem had grown inexorably, acting as an obstacle to development. More must be done to reverse that trend.

For its part, Tunisia had adopted a number of legal instruments to prevent the country from being used for the transit for illicit drug trafficking, to educate young people about drugs and to help rehabilitate drug addicts. It had

also been active in a number of related regional and interregional drug control initiatives.

The underlying premise of those activities was that drug control and trafficking could not be divorced from the issues of development and poverty eradication. Only through economic revitalization and development of producer States could the vicious circle of drug production and distribution be broken.

In that effort the assistance of the United Nations system was vital, for it could help countries with the implementation of global drug control policies. UNDCP should continue the vital work of promoting, mediating and coordinating international action. One way of reversing the general reduction in the level of resources allocated to the Programme might be to allocate to it some of the confiscated proceeds from illicit drug trafficking.

Given the scale of the drug problem, discussion of control measures should continue not only at the current session, but also at a special session of the General Assembly in 1998.

Mr. VILCHEZ ASHER (Nicaragua) said that the economic, political and social change had only served to exacerbate drug abuse and facilitate drug trafficking, with criminal organizations exploiting the liberalization process to take over legitimate sectors of economic activity. Discussions in the Council and at other international forums should focus on legalization of the proceeds from drug trafficking.

In the past, the principle of banking secrecy had helped keep the money-laundering problem hidden from public view. Greater openness and realism had changed all that, adding cogency to the argument put forward by some in favour of an international instrument against money-laundering to be devised within the context of the United Nations.

Support for such a response had grown, as the world had come to realize that the drug problem transcended national boundaries and required an integrated approach which still preserved the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States. Mindful of the vast economic power of the international drug market, the international community should act to support UNDCP as the appropriate forum for international cooperation to combat drugs.

For its part, the Government of Nicaragua had taken a number of initiatives to counter the effects of drug-related problems. Bringing together representatives from youth organizations, the police and justice departments, as

well as relevant government ministries, it had established the Nicaraguan Drug Council to coordinate national drug control strategies and programmes. The Council had set up a documentation centre, which would tap into the national data bank and exchange information with regional and international agencies, with a view to enhancing cooperation between them.

In terms of legislation, Nicaragua had passed a law in 1994 which reflected the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988). That law provided for the creation of a commission to control banking and financial operations relating to money-laundering. Consideration would also be given to a bill aimed at stopping drug organizations from infiltrating legitimate commercial and financial sectors of the economy. The bill, which provided for the creation of an inter-institutional commission on money-laundering and a raft of related crimes, also aimed at establishing international judicial cooperation in those areas. Given its firm belief in the importance of international cooperation against drugs, Nicaragua had also signed a number of agreements with States in the region and elsewhere.

Nicaragua endorsed the view that development and drug control were inextricably linked. Without effective assistance from the United Nations and from bilateral partners, the developing world would continue to face serious difficulties with the drug problem. Nicaragua believed the scale of the problem was such as to merit an extraordinary session of the General Assembly in 1998.

Ms. STEWART (Canada) said that her Government endorsed the view that only concerted action could help combat drug abuse and trafficking and their damaging effects, particularly on children and youth. Thus, it hoped that the high-level segment would send three key messages to the world: that States should assume responsibility for drug control; that bilateral, regional and international cooperation was vital; and that inter-agency cooperation should be strengthened in order to deal effectively with drug-related problems.

Mindful of those messages, Canada had supported a number of national, regional and inter-agency activities aimed at demand reduction and drug control. It had offered financial support both to a recent workshop on drug control held in Barbados and to the efforts of the working group of experts from the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, seeking to elaborate a declaration of principles on demand reduction. In addition to signing bilateral accords on judicial

cooperation, Canada had organized training courses and information exchange. Believing firmly in the important work of UNDCP, Canada had allocated $1 million to the Programme for the 1996-1997 period, and supported the suggestion that resources from the regular budget of the United Nations should be reallocated to it. More work should be done to strengthen the links between United Nations bodies and regional institutions.

More needed to be done also to tackle the pervasive problem of corruption, which threatened to undermine entire sectors of certain societies. The international code for public officials, approved by the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, was a modest step in the right direction, and should be approved by the Council so that it could be submitted for adoption by the General Assembly.

In the meantime, the Council should concentrate on establishing practical and effective cooperation between all agencies and bodies involved in drug control. The Council owed it to the individual victims of drugs, and to afflicted States in the developing world to help formulate a concerted response to a problem that threatened the future of the global community.

Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan) said that the escalating trend in drug abuse and the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs had become a grave and persistent menace to both nations and individuals and a challenge to political, economic, social and cultural structures. A comprehensive approach was called for to deal with both the supply of and demand for drugs. Reduction in both supply and demand should be seen as mutually reinforcing elements of an all-encompassing strategy.

His delegation had been disappointed by the timid recommendations made in the Secretary-General's report, and presumed that such diffident recommendations had been made deliberately in order to allow the participants in the high-level segment to suggest bold policy measures.

In the economic field, his Government endorsed the Secretary-General's recommendation on the establishment of partnerships between economic policy-making and drug control authorities, the development of mechanisms to facilitate multilateral decision-making and action against money-laundering, and reinforcement of partnerships between development and drug control programmes. Pakistan also supported the package on the social dimension, with its emphasis on youth.

The answer to the mushrooming drug problem was not to revamp the United Nations drug control machinery but to strengthen it and make it operate more effectively; the Programme had not been given realistic opportunities to fulfil its mandate and role. The declining trend in UNDCP funding from the regular budget ran counter to pious affirmations that priority should be given to drug control.

His Government had declared war on narcotics production, processing, trafficking and abuse, and had taken measures to eradicate the production of the opium poppy and cannabis. In addition, it had taken steps to treat and rehabilitate addicts and activate community intervention on drug abuse. An effective legislative and administrative framework had been created to equip the law enforcement agencies to fight the problem.

Pakistan was a signatory to numerous United Nations conventions on narcotics, and in order to bring national legislation into line with the provisions of those instruments, the Government had promulgated an ordinance to amend the law relating to punishment for drug trafficking by prescribing the severest penalty and confiscation of assets. Despite current political difficulties, the Government of Pakistan had welcomed UNDCP's initiative to sponsor direct consultations between India and Pakistan in the field of drug control.

In order to adopt a multi-dimensional strategy, Member States needed to recognize that the main responsibility for reducing drug abuse lay with the traditional consumer countries. Additional blueprints needed to be developed to implement the regional and subregional strategies of UNDCP and greater priority needed to be given to the development of national drug control programmes. Free flow of information in police work and improvement of extradition procedures were imperative, and recommendations on money-laundering should be strictly implemented and adapted to various national legislations.

States needed to recognize that mere criminalization of drugs did not offer a lasting solution; drug addicts should be reintegrated into society through rehabilitation. Law-enforcement measures should be supplemented by prevention and treatment initiatives in the social and health sectors. However, Pakistan opposed legalization or decriminalization of the use of drugs. Finally, crop substitution policies should be supplemented by measures aimed to improve the

social environment and accelerate economic development in order to reduce the cultivation of illicit crops.

Mr. MAGANGA (Gabon) said that drug abuse had become a major scourge which not only affected individuals, the environment and economic development but also promoted organized crime. Given the difficulties which many countries faced in confronting the challenge, the international community had adopted a number of instruments aimed at promoting greater international cooperation in combating the production, supply, trafficking and illicit distribution of narcotic drugs.

Gabon had adhered to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, and had ratified the 1961 and 1971 Conventions. It had created an inter-ministerial commission against drug addiction and had prepared draft legislation with UNDCP assistance aimed at bringing its national laws into line with the international instruments and at coordinating national and subregional anti-drug strategies. A central anti-drug office had also been created to combat illicit drug trafficking, provide technical coordination and centralize all information on narcotic drugs.

No country was immune to the problem. Producer countries in the developing world, which traditionally were not large consumers, were experiencing an increase in local drug use. Moreover, weak political, economic and judicial structures made them targets of choice for drug traffickers and money-launderers, thereby blurring the traditional distinction between producer, consumer and transit countries.

Drug traffickers controlled colossal sums of money. Their annual turnover in 1994 was estimated by certain sources to be between 400 and 500 billion United States dollars. Morality aside, it was time to consider whether a portion of the assets confiscated by national authorities should not be used to supplement the inadequate voluntary contributions currently available to UNDCP for the discharge of its important mandate, as had been proposed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

His Government regretted the decision to close the regional UNDCP office which had been located in Gabon until 1995. The decision had left the door open for criminals to exploit the weaknesses of the existing structures in the subregion. Gabon nevertheless remained committed to the international

community's efforts to combat narcotic drugs and supported the proposal to convene a special session of the General Assembly on the subject.

Mr. RAHMAN (Bangladesh) said that the increasingly widespread abuse of narcotic drugs posed a threat to the social fabric of affected countries. Attempts to reverse the current trend of drug abuse were proving to be a formidable challenge to national Governments, particularly those of the developing countries.

International travel and increasing transboundary commodity flows had contributed to the globalization of drug-related criminal activities. The criminals involved in drug trafficking had at their disposal colossal resources to protect and expand their activities. Indeed, the amount of laundered money available to the criminals was greater than the gross national product of three quarters of the world's economies.

It was therefore imperative that all countries join in efforts to address the problem. The choice of that issue as the theme of the Council's substantive session of 1996 was a major step in the direction of an integrated global response and paved the way for a special session of the General Assembly to be devoted to the suppression of the illicit production, sale and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

An essential component of the international effort to combat drug abuse was the strengthening of the regional and subregional response through the implementation of appropriate legal instruments. In 1990, for example, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) had adopted a regional convention to more effectively address the various aspects of prevention and control of drug abuse and the suppression of illicit traffic in the narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances specific to the SAARC region.

The success of the international response depended, however, on an appropriate response at the national level. Bangladesh had strengthened its legal provisions and bolstered law enforcement measures to combat drug-related crimes. Almost all narcotic drugs and most psychotropic substances entered Bangladesh from neighbouring countries. More vigilant countermeasures would enable the country to determine the extent of illicit trafficking through its territory and, with the assistance of the international community and of UNDCP in particular, to take remedial measures.

Mr. DEJAMMET (France) said that the United Nations was the organ best suited to the task of coordinating an effective international response to the complex problem of drug abuse. The many initiatives launched by the Organization were a reflection of the international community's grave concern over the problem and its difficulty in coming up with proposals for a long-term solution. The situation was compounded by the rapidly changing nature of the problem. The traditional dichotomy between producer and consumer countries had disappeared with the emergence of new drugs and new consumption patterns, while illicit trafficking was carried on in increasingly innovative ways. The United Nations should therefore assess the situation on a regular basis and adapt its strategy to the new developments, while continuing to pursue certain basic objectives.

Priority areas for international action included the ratification and implementation of the international Conventions of 1961, 1971 and 1988, which required that national legislation should be brought into line with their provisions; strengthening of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB); reaffirmation of the key coordinating role of UNDCP within the United Nations system and expansion of its funding base; and support for the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session.

International coordination was especially needed in the economic and social fields. The economic impact of drug trafficking in all its ramifications, including money-laundering, was considerable and it was essential to coordinate efforts to reduce both demand and supply, suppress trafficking and related criminal activity and implement alternative development programmes in producer countries. Special emphasis should be placed on combating money-laundering through the enactment of legislation which was in conformity with the three United Nations Conventions in that field.

In social terms, drug addiction posed its greatest threat to the youngest, most fragile and most disadvantaged members of society. The HIV/AIDS epidemic had further increased the risks for drug addicts. Drug abuse was a danger not only to the health of populations but also to the balance of the social structure. The situation therefore required not only programmes to treat drug addicts and reintegrate them into society but also a vigorous policy of prevention with the active participation of public authorities and local communities.

Those priority objectives must be pursued without delay. France would urge its partners in the Group of Seven to place the subject of drug abuse high on the Group's agenda. France firmly supported the proposal to hold a special session of the General Assembly in 1998, since it would provide an occasion to review the progress achieved.

Mr. CAMACHO OMISTE (Observer for Bolivia) said that drug abuse was closely linked to social and economic development both in producer and consumer countries and it was therefore at that level that the problem needed to be addressed.

Bolivia's policy to combat the global threat of drug abuse was based on prevention, interdiction, destruction of illegal coca crops and alternative development. Given his country's particular situation, emphasis had been placed on the last three approaches. Only 12,000 of the approximately 30,000 hectares of coca were legally planted and the excess production was currently subject to voluntary destruction at a cost of nearly US$ 21 million for 1995 and the first five months of 1996. Thirty thousand rural families were currently abandoning coca cultivation in favour of alternative crops, while some 20,000 others earned their living exclusively from planting coca. Mindful of the social and economic impact of the destruction of crops, the Government of Bolivia maintained an ongoing dialogue with rural coca producers in an attempt to forestall social unrest. In addition, the authorities had recently destroyed cocaine factories and laboratories, seized large quantities of drugs and precursors, and detained a large number of persons involved in drug trafficking.

It was unfortunate, however, that, notwithstanding the principle of shared responsibility, poor countries were being called upon to make the most sacrifices. The continued effectiveness of Bolivia's anti-drug policies depended on increased international cooperation. It was imperative for consumer countries to establish verifiable demand reduction goals under the supervision of the International Narcotics Control Board. Without effective demand reduction programmes, efforts to stop the illegal planting and production of drugs were doomed to failure. The problem of money-laundering also needed to be tackled through the enactment of appropriate domestic legislation and the establishment of strict regulatory mechanisms.

His Government welcomed the convening of a special session of the General Assembly in 1998 to consider the problem of illicit drugs. It was only through

coordinated international efforts, respect for the sovereignty and dignity of States and recognition of the principle of shared responsibility that success could be achieved.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

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PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 13th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 26 June 1996, at 3 p.m.

President:	Mr. MOUBARAK	(Lebanon)
later:	Mr. EITEL (Vice-President)	(Germany)

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTICS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTICS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES (continued) (E/1996/18, E/1996/57)

Mrs. OWEN (Ireland) said her Government had identified drugs as one of the priority themes for the six-month period of the Irish presidency of the European Union and hoped during that period to address the problem directly and sow the seeds of further work. Key actions which Ireland would pursue during its presidency included the implementation of a programme on the prevention of drug dependency in the field of public health, agreements between the European Union and third countries on the identification, control and sale of precursors, measures to protect the external borders of the European Union and a memorandum of understanding between customs administrations and the trade and private sectors to enlist their help in the fight against drugs.

Drug abuse and its related problems were the cause of family breakdown, unemployment, mindless violence and organized crime. Money-laundering related to the illicit trade of narcotics undermined legitimate economic structures and distorted the world trading system. It was estimated that illegal profits from drug trafficking amounted to $300 billion, which was more than 300 times what the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) received in voluntary contributions. In recent years, there had been an increase in the amount of synthetic substances, such as ecstasy, which were relatively easy to produce chemically. A world market, driven by demand and opportunity, had developed just as much for illicit drugs as for consumer goods. Moreover, illegal drug use was no longer confined to the industrialized countries; more and more producer and transit countries were affected by it. Thus, there was an ever-increasing need for cooperation among countries in order to address common problems. Methods to deal with the growing complexity of drug abuse must take account of the global responsibilities which all countries shared.

Mr. JAYANAMA (Thailand) said over the past decade the drug problem had grown increasingly complex. Illicit drug trafficking, coupled with the armed activity of drug cartels, had undermined political and economic stability and

the social fabric of many countries. His country, which confronted not only the problem of drug production but also that of illicit trafficking and a drug epidemic, accorded high national priority to the fight against drugs. His Government had introduced rural development projects and crop substitution programmes to provide alternative sources of livelihood and had strengthened law enforcement efforts aimed at breaking up the drug trafficking network. It had succeeded in reducing the opium cultivation area in most parts of the country, with the exception of an inaccessible pocket in the north, and would continue its efforts until opium cultivation had been eliminated.

The Government had also introduced preventive education programmes and a community network to promote socio-economic development and demand reduction. It National Development Plan stressed the strengthening of the family and community as a complementary means of controlling drug abuse.

His country was convinced that international cooperation was essential to the war on drugs and fully supported the lead role of the United Nations. For several years, his Government had been participating in subregional projects with the assistance of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and would welcome the strengthening of the subregional strategy.

Thailand fully supported the implementation of international drug control instruments and related programmes and had introduced a law to penalize money-laundering in preparation for its accession to the 1988 Convention. UNDCP could play a vital role in assisting member countries to implement fully the drug control treaties and other international instruments. His Government contributed annually to UNDCP, which required generous donations in order to carry out fully its activities and mandate.

Other agencies within the United Nations system, including the international financial institutions, could also contribute to effective international action against drugs. His delegation endorsed the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control as a vital instrument for the coordination and enhancement of anti-drug activities and urged other United Nations agencies to increase their cooperation with UNDCP and attach higher priority to drug control efforts.

Despite increased efforts by the international community, the drug problem continued worldwide and new synthetic drugs had emerged, worsening the situation. Both producing and exporting countries should impose strict control

on chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine to prevent the diversion of those chemicals for illicit drug production. His Government was exercising strict control over the import of such chemicals as part of its commitment and willingness to cooperate with the international community in the fight against the scourge of illicit drugs.

Ms. BELLAMY (United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)) said that the use of illicit drugs, alcohol and tobacco was taking an increasing toll on the health and development of children, adolescents and families around the world. Drug abuse undermined young people's health and opportunities in the present, their future productivity as adults, the health of their children and their capacity to be caring and supportive parents. Drugs contributed to the spread of HIV/AIDS and to the rising incidence of injuries.

The major factors underlying drug abuse included poverty, urbanization, civil unrest, family breakdown and weakened social support systems. Unsafe sex, accidents and violence were also linked to substance abuse. Young people frequently had poor access to the information needed to make informed decisions and to education and health services.

UNICEF had developed several policies, including a health strategy, to address issues related to substance abuse and demand reduction. Five key areas of intervention were being incorporated into country programmes: national planning and policy development; school-based interventions; "youth-friendly" health services; health promotion and outreach through non-governmental organizations; and working with the news and entertainment media. While discussions tended to focus on young people's behaviour, less was said about the attitudes and behaviours of adults and society which caused the problems facing young people. Those damaging behaviours should be changed and young people should be heard and included in programmes. Whenever possible, UNICEF attempted to include children in its programmes, not only as direct beneficiaries, but also as participants in the design or evaluation of projects.

Mr. KIMBERG (Observer for Denmark) said that Danish efforts to combat drug trafficking were based on initiatives taken at the United Nations and European levels with respect to money-laundering and precursors. The fight against drugs must be aimed at both supply and demand if control measures were to be successful. Since August 1995 his Government had been implementing a pilot project to offer criminal drug abusers the opportunity to replace

imprisonment with treatment; it was still too early to draw any conclusions as to the results.

It was generally acknowledged that positive results in treatment and rehabilitation were extremely difficult to obtain. Therefore, primary prevention was of the greatest importance. His Government strongly supported the development of a declaration on the guiding principles of demand reduction in consultation with Member States in order to increase international cooperation in primary prevention. The declaration should emphasize that drug abuse stemmed to a large extent from lack of education, unemployment, inadequate housing and poor social conditions and that any welfare improvements in those areas would substantially enhance primary prevention of the demand for drugs. The first step was mutual recognition that demand reduction should be a crucial element in national narcotic-drug policies.

His Government had continued to increase its contribution to UNDCP and supported greater cooperation between UNDCP, the various United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and the international financial institutions. Wherever possible, UNDCP projects should form part of existing projects implemented by the United Nations system. In that regard, the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control should be seen as a strategic tool for enhancing the effects of activities and giving UNDCP an effective catalytic role. The usefulness of that Plan in terms of coordination depended on its ability to promote additional high-quality projects.

Mr. BUTLER (Australia) reaffirmed his Government's commitment to combat illicit drug trafficking, the monetary value of which now exceeded that of international trade in arms and oil. Narcotics trade was directly related to the clandestine arms trade, international crime, corruption and money-laundering. The narcotics trade, which crossed State boundaries and could not be defeated by military means must necessarily be the subject of international cooperation. Drug addiction cost lives and led to complex criminal problems. For that reason, his Government had adopted a comprehensive approach to drug-related problems, incorporating education, health, rehabilitation, youth affairs, banking and law enforcement. Furthermore, reduction of demand had always been a central pillar of Australia's national drug strategy.

A key to his Government's strategy for managing the consequences of drug misuse was to introduce harm minimization measures, without necessarily awaiting

the elimination of drug misuse. Such measures included demand reduction, supply control, controlled and safer drug use and abstinence. The elimination of illicit drugs remained the ultimate goal. While a harm minimization strategy might not be appropriate for all countries, it had produced significant successes in reducing the social, economic and health-related harms in Australia. However, harm reduction should not be undertaken in isolation from supply control. There was little to be gained from educating people to reject drug use when there were inadequate law enforcement efforts to reduce supplies. Similarly, there was little to be gained by introducing measures such as methadone programmes and needle exchanges to prevent the spread of infection, if use of those services exposed individuals to law enforcement action.

Owing to an increase in deaths from heroin overdosing, his Government had established a multidisciplinary group to address that issue. The group had stressed the need to educate heroin users about the dangers of injecting and to research the management of overdoses by using alternate drugs.

In the area of law enforcement, federal and local authorities were reviewing legislation on narcotic offences with a view to developing a simplified set of clear model laws. Consistent and complementary laws in all jurisdictions would make prosecution of offenders easier and reduce costs. Penalties for engaging in trafficking, manufacture and importation of illicit drugs would also be reviewed in order to warn individuals engaged in such activities that they risked severe punishment. His Government believed that the most practical and meaningful way to give effect to international treaty obligations was to establish a national drug strategy that took into account not only the drugs themselves but also the people involved and their social and physical environments.

Although his country had entered into many bilateral drug-control arrangements, it remained convinced of the crucial and unique role the United Nations could play in initiating and coordinating drug-control activities at the international level. The important role of UNDCP as coordinator at the policy and operational levels should be enhanced. A key outcome of the current session of the Council should be a reaffirmation by Member States of their commitment to UNDCP, which implied active participation in its governance and ensuring that it was given sufficient funds - which it currently lacked - to implement its complex and demanding mandate.

The special session of the General Assembly scheduled for 1998 would provide an excellent opportunity to determine whether any improvements were needed in established structures, with a view to making them even more effective in the work of the international community to combat narcotic drugs. Valuable reforms had been instituted in the Secretariat in recent years, which made it all the more desirable to consider what improvements could be made in the relevant intergovernmental and expert bodies.

Mr. ALCALAY (Venezuela) said that Venezuela, as a sponsor of the 1988 Convention, actively combated drug trafficking at the national and international levels and welcomed the convening in 1998 of a special session of the General Assembly to consider how to strengthen the international strategy against drugs. His delegation fully endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the item under discussion (E/1996/57).

His country's revised national legislation on narcotics and psychotropic substances focused on consumption, prevention, dependency, interdiction and control of money-laundering, and its drug control strategy, which had been approved by UNDCP, focused primarily on prevention. Notwithstanding the economic crisis which the country faced, national authorities had stepped up their law enforcement efforts, particularly with respect to money-laundering. Efforts were also under way to prevent the production of illicit crops and combat the violence and corruption attendant upon drug trafficking.

His delegation urged the international community to support, through UNDCP and in accordance with article 14 of the 1988 Convention, research under way in Latin America on herbicides, with a view to enabling land from which drug crops had been eliminated to be immediately utilizable for other purposes. His country had adopted virtually all the standards elaborated by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission with respect to money-laundering and the control of precursors and chemicals, and it welcomed the cooperation between the European Union and the Andean countries with respect to preferential market access for the latter's exports. His Government believed that the most effective way for Governments to strengthen and harmonize their legal systems would be to sign and ratify the 1988 Convention. It also appreciated the work of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) in Latin America. Regional conferences sponsored by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission had provided useful guidance in the preparation of legislation to prevent money-

laundering and had facilitated compliance by participating States with the relevant provisions of the 1988 Convention. His country had entered into many bilateral agreements to combat drug trafficking. His delegation urged the international community to support drug control efforts and expressed its gratitude to the United Nations for its work in that field.

Mr. EITEL (Germany), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Mr. MOUBARAK (Lebanon) said that his delegation endorsed the position of the Group of 77 on the item under discussion.

During the recent war, his country had gained a reputation as a safe haven for drug traffickers. After the war, his Government had launched a national strategy to tackle all issues relating to the prevention and control of drug abuse and the production of and traffic in illicit drugs, for which it sought the assistance of UNDCP and other relevant organizations. His country had ratified the 1988 Convention. An ambitious illicit crop eradication programme had been conducted from 1991 to 1993, and an integrated area development programme for districts in which the production of drugs was concentrated had been established to develop an institutional structure for programme implementation, the rehabilitation and development of the agricultural sector, the upgrading of social services and the development of non-agricultural income-generating activities and the improvement of drinking water.

Other measures taken included demand-reduction efforts, redefinition of the national legal and institutional framework for drug control, and the adoption of revised drug-control legislation, including measures on money-laundering. His Government was deeply grateful to UNDCP, which had commended it for its achievements and its continuing commitment to interdiction.

Notwithstanding inadequate financial support from the international community for his country's effort to implement rehabilitation and development measures in districts where illicit crop eradication had been carried out, his Government was pursuing that national initiative. Noting that a respected source had published inaccurate information on his country's drug-control efforts, he underscored the importance of reporting only accurate figures based on facts and achievements, with a view to enhancing the joint effort to combat the scourge of drugs. His country's widely recognized accomplishments during the past five years underscored the fact that it deserved full support from the international community.

Mr. AMZAZI (Observer for Morocco) said that international cooperation to combat drug trafficking should focus on demand reduction and on alternative crop production, with a view to eliminating the social and economic causes of drug use and trafficking. His country's drug control strategy focused on reducing supplies, combating illicit traffic and cooperation at the international level on all drug-related issues. His country had adhered to all the relevant international instruments. Its intensive campaign against drug trafficking had resulted in the dismantling of trafficking networks, the prosecution of domestic and foreign traffickers, the seizure of large quantities of drugs and psychotropic substances and the confiscation of profits resulting from drug trafficking. The Government had drafted legislation on money-laundering patterned on the provisions of the 1988 Convention and relevant resolutions of the United Nations and other international organizations.

A development plan had been launched in 1992 to assist the parts of the country affected by the scourge, and a special agency had been established in 1995 to focus that effort. His Government hoped that, given the close correlation between demand and supply, the European Union would support the agency's work. His delegation commended UNDCP for its work in mobilizing resources and hoped that donor countries and the international financial institutions would likewise assist countries which were committed to eradicating the scourge of drug abuse and trafficking.

His country was also committed to strengthening its cooperation with other countries through bilateral agreements and subregional or regional arrangements and within the special agencies of the United Nations system. A declaration adopted at a meeting of interior ministers of the countries bordering the western Mediterranean had acknowledged the shared responsibility of producer and consumer countries and had called for increased cooperation in police, economic, technical and judicial matters.

His delegation hoped that his country's commitment to the fight against drugs, as demonstrated by its actions and the sacrifices it had made, would be properly reflected in the relevant reports prepared by the United Nations. Lastly, he expressed his delegation's support for the convening in 1998 of a special session of the General Assembly to deal with drug-related issues.

Mrs. OSORIO VIZCAINO (Observer for Cuba) said that one feature of the international drug crisis which had not been adequately analysed was the fact

that the major drug-consuming countries were far wealthier than the major drug-producing countries. That fact should be taken into account in bilateral and multilateral assistance programmes, and larger sums should be allocated to assist the economically disadvantaged countries. On occasion, countries receiving such assistance were obliged to accept conditions which impinged on their sovereignty.

Her country was a transit State for drug trafficking but was very firmly committed to combating that odious activity. Despite its difficult economic situation, caused by the extremely cruel blockade imposed by the United States Government, its drug seizure efforts had proved satisfactory.

Her Government had always honoured its international commitment to combat the scourge of drugs and also had bilateral arrangements with a number of countries. She reiterated her Government's willingness to enter into relevant agreements with all countries, on the basis of mutual respect and non-interference in their internal affairs. Her country had ratified the 1988 Convention and was thus a party to all United Nations instruments on drug control. In conclusion, she urged all countries to strive to eradicate the drug problem, bearing in mind that the future of mankind was at stake.

Mr. BORG (Observer for Malta) said that the fact that more than 133 of the 185 States Members of the United Nations had ratified the 1988 Convention was vivid proof of their commitment to underscore the international dimension of the fight against drug trafficking. His country had acceded to the Convention in February 1996 and its Parliament had enacted the enabling legislation in June. Most of that legislation was based on the principles of cooperation enshrined in the Convention, such as the possibility of executing in his country seizure and confiscation orders issued abroad against presumed and convicted drug traffickers. The new law had also introduced the penalty of life imprisonment for serious drug trafficking.

His country had enjoyed dramatic success in drug law enforcement during the past two years. It also attached high priority to international cooperation in that area and, with regard to training, was particularly grateful to the Drug Enforcement Agency of the United States.

His Government was categorically opposed to the legalization of drugs. Surveys showed that public opinion was overwhelmingly against any form of

legalization, which would undoubtedly lead to an increase in consumption and in drug-related crimes.

The best form of international cooperation was at the regional level. The Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference held at Barcelona in November 1995 had pledged to fight organized crime and combat the drug problem. His Government had proposed that a ministerial meeting should be held to formulate concrete measures, and that a EUROMED monitoring and coordinating centre should be established to serve as a central coordinating agency for the exchange of information and intelligence on illicit drug trafficking at the regional level.

In 1993, his Government had established an agency to combat drug and alcohol abuse which had become the focal point through which individuals and their families gained access to specialized services and individualized treatment plans. As part of demand-reduction programmes, awareness was being increased among all sectors of society through structured programmes within the community. Programmes for community prevention, parenting skills, schools and professional training were being implemented.

UNDCP, with its technical expertise, could greatly assist EUROMED structures in preventing the Mediterranean basin, an important sea route, from being used by international drug dealers as a transit stage. As to the financial situation of UNDCP, article 5 of the 1988 Convention, which referred to the confiscation of proceeds and property, should be utilized as a source of funding for UNDCP programmes and for other drug control and prevention programmes.

Mr. SYCHOU (Belarus) said that the fight against illicit drug trafficking was particularly intense in Belarus because of the close connection between drug dealers and organized crime, on the one hand, and the impact of drugs on the health of the population in conjunction with the environmental problems faced by Belarus, on the other. More than 750 drug-related crimes had been committed in 1995 in Belarus, where a steady growth in drug abuse and the opportunity to extract huge profits had created favourable conditions for drug dealers. Ties were being established between local criminal groups and foreign networks and it appeared that drug cartels were trying to establish new markets in the territory of Belarus.

The geographical location of Belarus made it a convenient drug transit zone. More than 30 per cent of the drugs confiscated from illicit traffickers

had been brought in from abroad. There was an alarming trend towards the import of large quantities of dangerous drugs, such as heroin and opium, and the outlook was anything but favourable. There were likely to be further attempts to establish underground laboratories for processing drug crops or producing synthetic narcotics and psychotropic substances, and the activities of drug cartels in money laundering and investment in privatized companies, real estate and the financial sphere were intensifying.

His Government was taking measures to stop the growth of illicit drug trafficking and curb supply and demand. An inter-agency commission to combat crime and drug addiction had been established in 1995 and had adopted guidelines for State policy on the control of narcotics and psychotropic substances. Draft laws on combating drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking were being formulated. A programme of scientific research on drug addiction and drug-related criminality was being developed by the law enforcement agencies and the scientific research services of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. A national computerized databank with data on illicit trafficking, large-scale drug seizures and drug traffickers with regional and international links had been established.

Belarus participated actively in multilateral cooperation for drug abuse control and was a party to all the major international conventions on the subject. It had also concluded a number of bilateral agreements with individual countries to strengthen cooperation against money laundering, the leakage of precursors and other chemical substances and illicit drug production and trafficking. It attached particular importance to cooperation within the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Assistance from the world community was of great importance to countries in transition, and Belarus appreciated its fruitful cooperation with UNDCP, which was supplying assistance in improving national anti-drug legislation and drug control activities and providing medical treatment for drug addicts. Belarus supported the proposal to convene a special session of the General Assembly in 1998.

Mr. MABILANGAN (Philippines) said that his delegation fully associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Costa Rica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Since the beginning of the decade, seven international conferences had been held on social issues, but the opportunity had been missed to analyse how activities to address those issues were being threatened by drug abuse and by drug trafficking and related criminal activities. The strong political will to improve economic and social conditions must be matched by an equally strong commitment to fight the scourge of drug abuse. His delegation supported the proposal to convene a special session of the General Assembly in 1998.

His Government joined the call for much stronger international action against drug abuse and drug trafficking. The fight could no longer be waged by individual countries; international cooperation was the only way to succeed. There must be universal ratification and implementation of the drug control conventions, the Global Programme of Action adopted in 1990 and the Declaration adopted at the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. While those documents might need to be adjusted to changing circumstances, the purpose for which they had been prepared must be achieved at all costs. The proposal to establish a system of performance monitoring should be considered.

The anti-drug efforts of the developing countries needed sustained support from the international community and the United Nations, especially in dealing with the sophisticated methods of well-armed drug traffickers.

Through the Dangerous Drugs Board, an inter-agency body created by his Government, the provisions of the three drug-control conventions to which the Philippines was a party were being implemented and monitored. His Government continued to meet its obligations as a member of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). At the regional and international levels, it cooperated actively with bilateral partners within and outside the Asian region. His Government welcomed the support it received from the European Union for two important demand-reduction projects of ASEAN and requested continued support for the projects beyond 1997 to enable it to reach all parts of the country affected by the drug problem.

The Philippines continued to be a transshipment point for international drug syndicates, and the cultivation of cannabis by rural inhabitants and drug syndicates remained a problem. Cannabis and methamphetamine-hydrochloride trafficking dominated the illicit drug market; the illegal entry of methamphetamine was hard to detect because it was colourless and odourless. The Philippines was eager to continue its cooperation with the international

community, the United Nations and multilateral financial institutions in dealing with those problems.

Mr. SIMELANE (Observer for Swaziland) said that his delegation fully concurred with the Secretary-General's recommendations on developing mechanisms to facilitate multilateral decision-making and action against money-laundering, and on greater coordination between Governments and private banking and other financial institutions (E/1996/57, para. 30). He stressed the urgent need to address the growing links at the international level between criminal organizations and terrorist groups engaged in drug trafficking and other criminal activities. Governments should intensify their efforts to adopt adequate legislation, strengthen national judicial systems and carry out effective drug control activities with other States in accordance with international instruments.

Swaziland strongly supported the focus of UNDCP on regional, subregional and national strategies for drug abuse control, and it appealed for further assistance to Member States from UNDCP in adjusting laws, policies and infrastructures to implement international drug control conventions, in training personnel responsible for applying new laws, and in establishing national drug detection laboratories. With the cooperation of local non-governmental organizations and UNDCP, Swaziland was currently preparing to implement projects on drug-law enforcement, workplace rehabilitation initiatives and community action on drugs and alcohol. It had also set up a National Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse, and was in the process of strengthening its national anti-corruption legislation.

He expressed concern at the recent decline in the resources allocated to UNDCP from regular and extrabudgetary sources, and called upon the Member States to join their efforts to combat the drug threat through the instrumentality of the United Nations.

Mr. LAMAMRA (Observer for Algeria) said that, over the past five years, the activities of UNDCP had demonstrated the great potential of international cooperation in the face of a transboundary scourge which undermined the fabric of society and jeopardized economic development. UNDCP had succeeded in alerting States to the need for an organized struggle against drugs, at the universal level, and had harnessed the national experience of States in developing programmes to enhance prevention and strengthen control

through the harmonization of national efforts and mutual assistance among States. The human and financial resources of UNDCP must be significantly increased and sustained so that there were no disparities or weak points in the programmes accepted on by the international community, especially in developing countries and particularly in Africa.

In less than a decade, drug consumption had increased considerably in Africa and the continent had become an important transit point for drugs travelling towards the major consumer countries. Africa therefore insisted that, alongside the legitimate interests of producer and consumer countries, the interests of the transit countries should be duly taken into account. The drug control bodies and UNDCP must devote close attention to Africa.

Situated at the crossroads of Africa, the Mediterranean and the Middle East, Algeria, whose social values had long protected it from being a producer or major consumer, had become a transit point for large quantities of drugs, a small proportion of which were being consumed locally. At least 70 to 75 per cent of drugs seized were in transit; the drugs circulating locally were mainly cannabis and its derivatives. Recent investigations had established a clear link between drug abuse and terrorist activities through transfrontier networks involved in arms and drug dealing. Accordingly, the public authorities had established a system of preventive, deterrent and punitive measures. A national commission to combat drugs and drug addiction had been set up and a national plan had been drawn up and implemented with the assistance of all the competent State structures and non-governmental organizations.

Prevention mainly took the form of promoting awareness among the different components of society, particularly young people. In the area of deterrence, efforts were concentrated on border control, where the strengthening of human and material resources could be supported by UNDCP. As to punishment, under Algerian legislation drug traffickers were severely penalized. In addition, the Ministry of Justice had introduced a substantial reform of the legislation on illicit drug trafficking in order to bring it into line with the international conventions to which Algeria was a party.

The political will to enhance international cooperation in drug abuse control clearly existed. The international community should be able to allocate the necessary resources to combat the scourge of drugs. In so doing, States would invest in the well-being of future generations and promote the dignity and

worth of the human person in accordance with the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations.

Ms. ARYSTANBEKOVA (Observer for Kazakstan) said that her delegation agreed that, in order to combat the drug problem, decisive action was needed on the part of the United Nations and the entire international community. It believed that the measures taken should be more closely coordinated and interconnected. The discussion had confirmed the advisability of concentrating on the priority issues of international cooperation in combating drugs. Her delegation supported the need to strengthen control of the production, supply and trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. There was clearly an urgent need to enhance the cooperation of States at the global, regional and bilateral levels in combating illicit drug trafficking.

Her Government attached great importance to strengthening its cooperation with UNDCP and INCB and expressed appreciation for the assistance provided to Kazakstan in combating drug abuse. In May 1996 Kazakstan, along with other countries of central Asia, had signed a memorandum on cooperation with UNDCP which provided for the formulation of a regional strategy to establish a coordinating mechanism for cooperation, the formulation and implementation of projects and programmes, and the organization of annual meetings of government representatives and UNDCP.

Her Government attached great importance to the strengthening of cooperation among States at the regional level and, within the Commonwealth of Independent States, was a party to multilateral agreements on cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking. It had signed an inter-State programme of measures to combat organized crime, which envisaged the formulation of an agreement on cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking and strengthening coordination with UNDCP. Kazakstan was also a party to a quadripartite treaty with the Russian Federation, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan on strengthening integration in the economic and humanitarian fields, which included provisions about drugs.

The report of the Secretary-General drew attention to the new problems arising for the countries in transition, where institutions to fight illicit drugs and related criminal activities had barely emerged (E/1996/57, para. 70). Her Government was taking all possible measures to combat the drug threat. Taking into account the substantial drug-growing potential of Kazakstan, it had established, guided by recommendations from UNDCP, a State commission for the

control of narcotic substances. An independent department to control drug trafficking had been established in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and units had been established at the local level. Work was being carried out to upgrade national legislation and prepare for participation in the main international agreements on the subject.

Mr. GORNI (Observer for Israel) said that Israel would continue to cooperate with its neighbours at the bilateral and multilateral levels. At the first subregional technical meeting on drug control, recently held under the auspices of UNDCP, representatives of Egypt, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinians had launched a coordinated effort to stem the flow of drugs into the Middle East.

While Israel shared the view that law enforcement was not the sole solution to the drug problem, efforts to eliminate the supply of illegal drugs through law enforcement and effective interdiction played a key role in its short- and medium-term anti-drug activities. It was also making progress in long-term measures, such as treatment, rehabilitation and education programmes, designed to stem the demand for narcotics and other illegal drugs. Research on drug abuse problems was being encouraged, and numerous training programmes for drug abuse treatment personnel were under way. Special emphasis was also being placed on programmes for the prevention and treatment of drug abuse among youth.

Mr. BAHADIAN (Brazil) said that Brazil was taking measures to increase the efficiency and improve the organization of governmental and non-governmental mechanisms for drug abuse prevention and control, such as a national anti-drug action programme emphasizing prevention, law enforcement and rehabilitation. Legislation implementing some of the provisions of the 1988 Convention was being drafted, in some cases with the collaboration of UNDCP, in the areas of trafficking, money-laundering and control of chemical precursors.

Brazil had also proposed drug control initiatives and instruments in several international forums, such as the Inter-American Commission for Drug Abuse Control, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic, and counted on the support of UNDCP in their implementation. Brazil also supported the proposal to convene a special session of the General Assembly in 1998 to discuss drug-related issues.

Mr. HALLAK (Observer for the Syrian Arab Republic) expressed his delegation's support for the statement made by the representative of Costa Rica

on behalf of the Group of 77. Combating the scourge of narcotics and the associated socio-economic problems could only be successful through a comprehensive, global effort dealing simultaneously with the demand for narcotics as well as their production and trafficking. The Syrian Arab Republic had enacted anti-drug legislation that encompassed the provisions of the major international conventions on narcotics and was cooperating with its regional Arab neighbours at the bilateral and multilateral levels in the combat against illicit narcotics trafficking, with a view to achieving the objectives of UNDCP. It was also taking determined measures to prevent the use of its territory as a transit territory for illicit drug trafficking, and its cooperation with Interpol had made possible the seizure of large amounts of narcotics in recent years.

While supporting the anti-drug efforts of the United Nations, the Syrian Arab Republic stressed the importance of adopting and endorsing the reports of Member States concerning the drug situation in their countries in order to avoid any ambiguities. It wished to see the United Nations continue to coordinate international efforts to combat drug abuse and trafficking, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and UNDCP.

Mr. ANDREADIS (Greece), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, referred to the incorrect denomination of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in a recent statement made by the representative of that State. He recalled that Security Council resolution 817 (1993) recommended that that State shall be provisionally referred to for all purposes within the United Nations as "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" pending settlement of the difference that had arisen over its name. That difference had yet to be settled. He also pointed out that the same principle applied to references to "Macedonia" made at a previous meeting of the Council by the representatives of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and he requested that they should refrain from using that designation in the future.

Mr. KRLIU (Observer for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that, contrary to the statement of the representative of Greece, Security Council resolution 817 dealt only with references to his country made within the United Nations, not to the constitutional name of his country, which was the Republic of Macedonia. He said that references to the constitutional name of

his country were in accordance with the resolution, which did not demand the use of the form of the name contained in it.

Mr. ANDREADIS (Greece) said the text of the resolution was self-explanatory and did not admit of differing interpretations, which would have the effect of depriving the resolution of all meaning. He stressed that in any case, the references in question had been made within the walls of the United Nations, in which the provisions of the resolution applied.

Mr. KRLIU (Observer for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that demanding that a sovereign Member State should refrain from using its own constitutional name was contrary to the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and of the resolution. He repeated that the constitutional name of his country was the Republic of Macedonia.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.